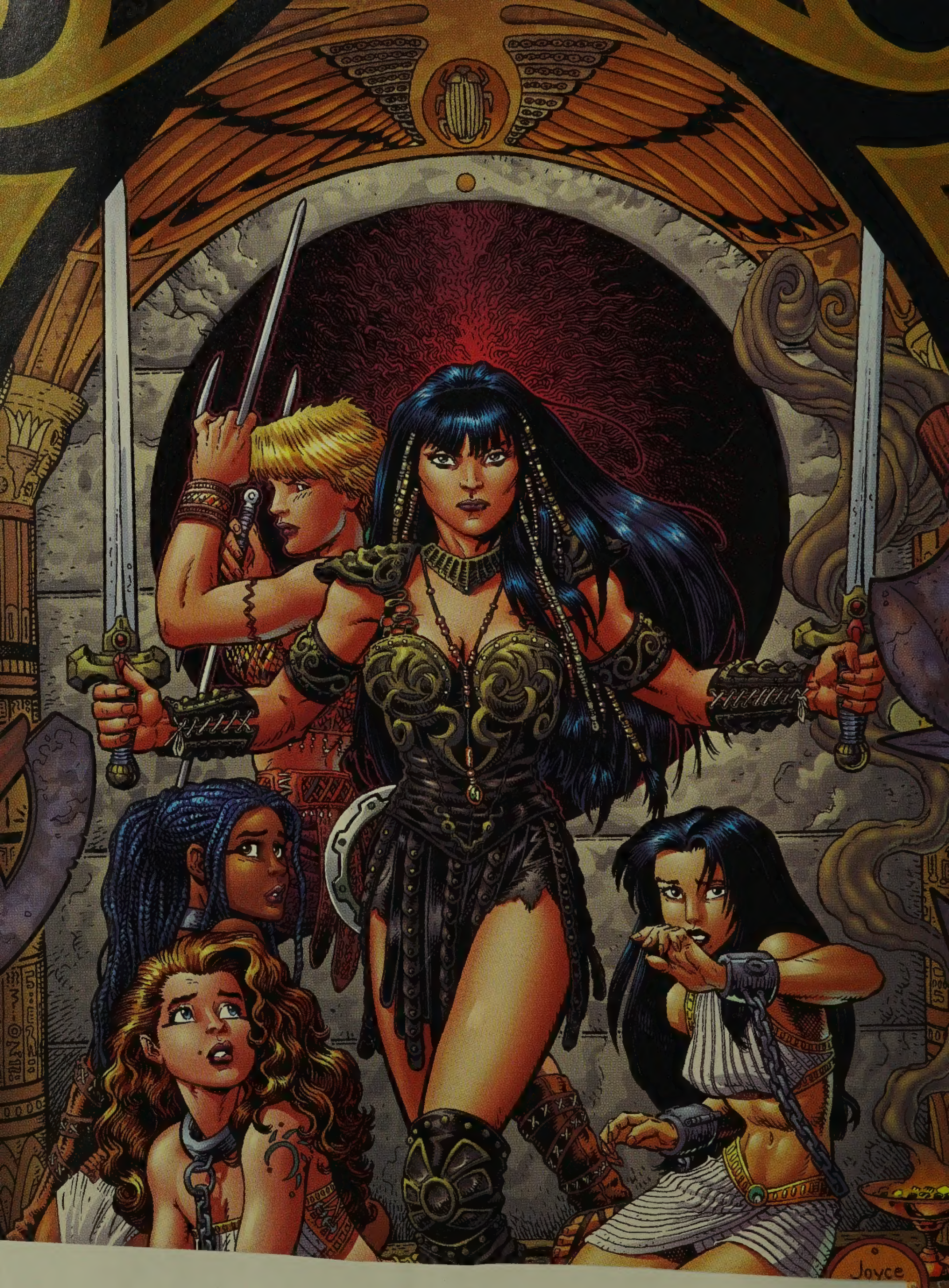
XENA

WARRIOR PRINCESS™

SLAVE

YA
WAG

XENA
WARRIOR PRINCESS™


Joyce

XENA
WARRIOR PRINCESS™

SLAVE

story
JOHN WAGNER

pencils
JOYCE CHIN, CLINT HILINSKI,
FABIANO NIEVES, and MIKE DEODATO

inks
WALDEN WONG and MIKE DEODATO

lettering
JOHN WORKMAN and AMADOR CISNEROS

colors
DAVE MCCAIG and BODHI TREE

series covers
ARTHUR ADAMS and JOYCE CHIN
with DAVE STEWART

DARK HORSE COMICS®

XENA: WARRIOR PRINCESS™ SLAVE

© 1999, 2000 Studios USA Television Distribution LLC. Xena: Warrior Princess is a trademark and copyright of Studios USA Television Distribution LLC. Licensed by Universal Studios Publishing Rights, a division of Universal Studios Licensing, Inc. All rights reserved. All other material © 2000 Dark Horse Comics, Inc. All rights reserved. No portion of this publication may be reproduced, in any form or by any means, without written permission from the copyright holders. Names, characters, places, and incidents featured in this publication are either the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual persons (living or dead), events, institutions, or locales, without satiric intent, is coincidental. Dark Horse Comics® and the Dark Horse logo are trademarks of Dark Horse Comics, Inc., registered in various categories and countries. All rights reserved.

This book collects issues four through six of the Dark Horse comic-book series XENA: WARRIOR PRINCESS and the story "Ghost" from issue one hundred forty-eight of the Dark Horse comic-book series DARK HORSE PRESENTS.

publisher
MIKE RICHARDSON

series editor
DAVE LAND

collection editor
CHRIS WARNER

collection designer
LIA RIBACCHI

Special thanks to DEBBIE BRUNNER at STUDIOS USA and ALI RASUL at RENAISSANCE PICTURES

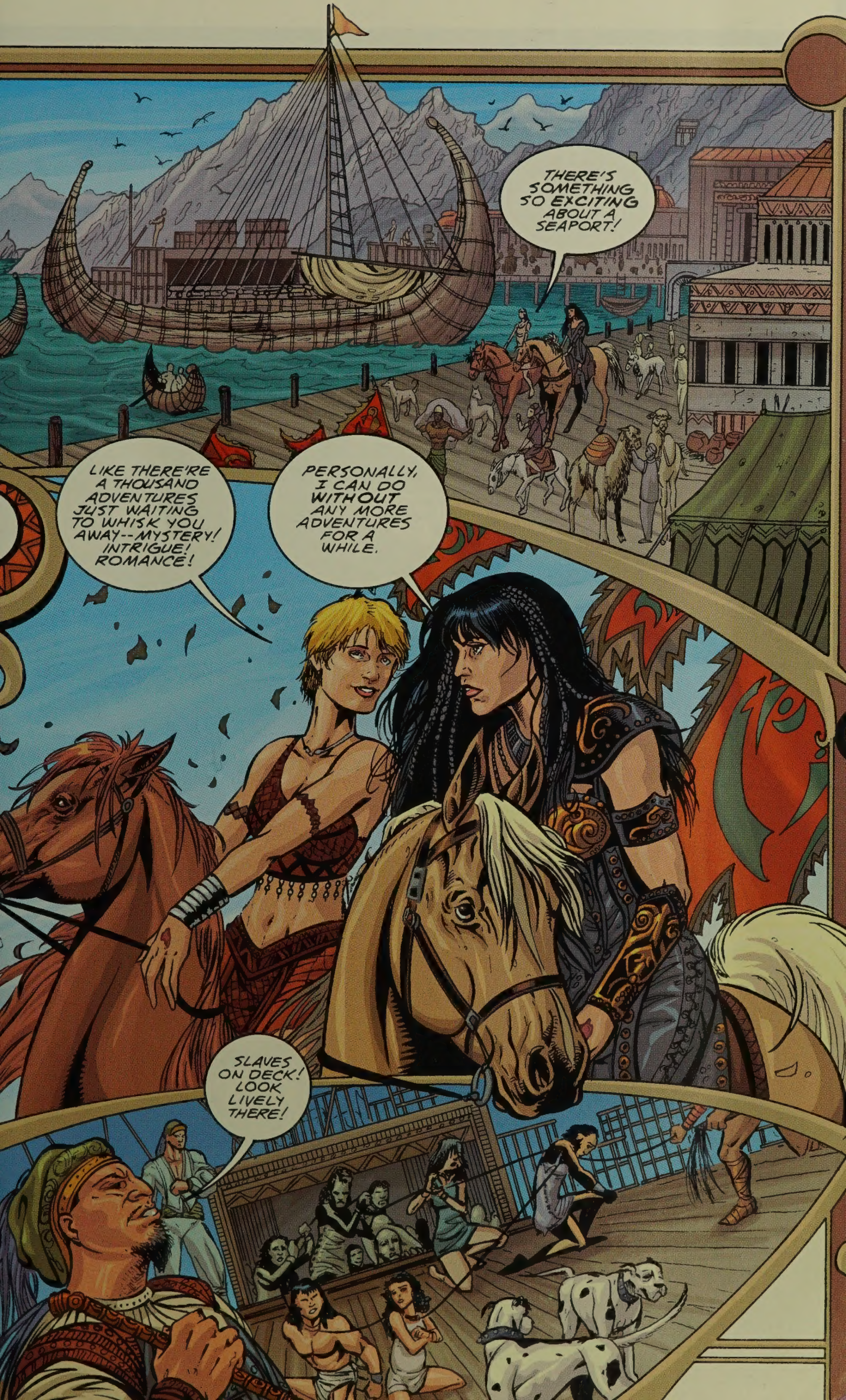
Published by
Dark Horse Comics, Inc.
10956 SE Main Street
Milwaukie, OR 97222

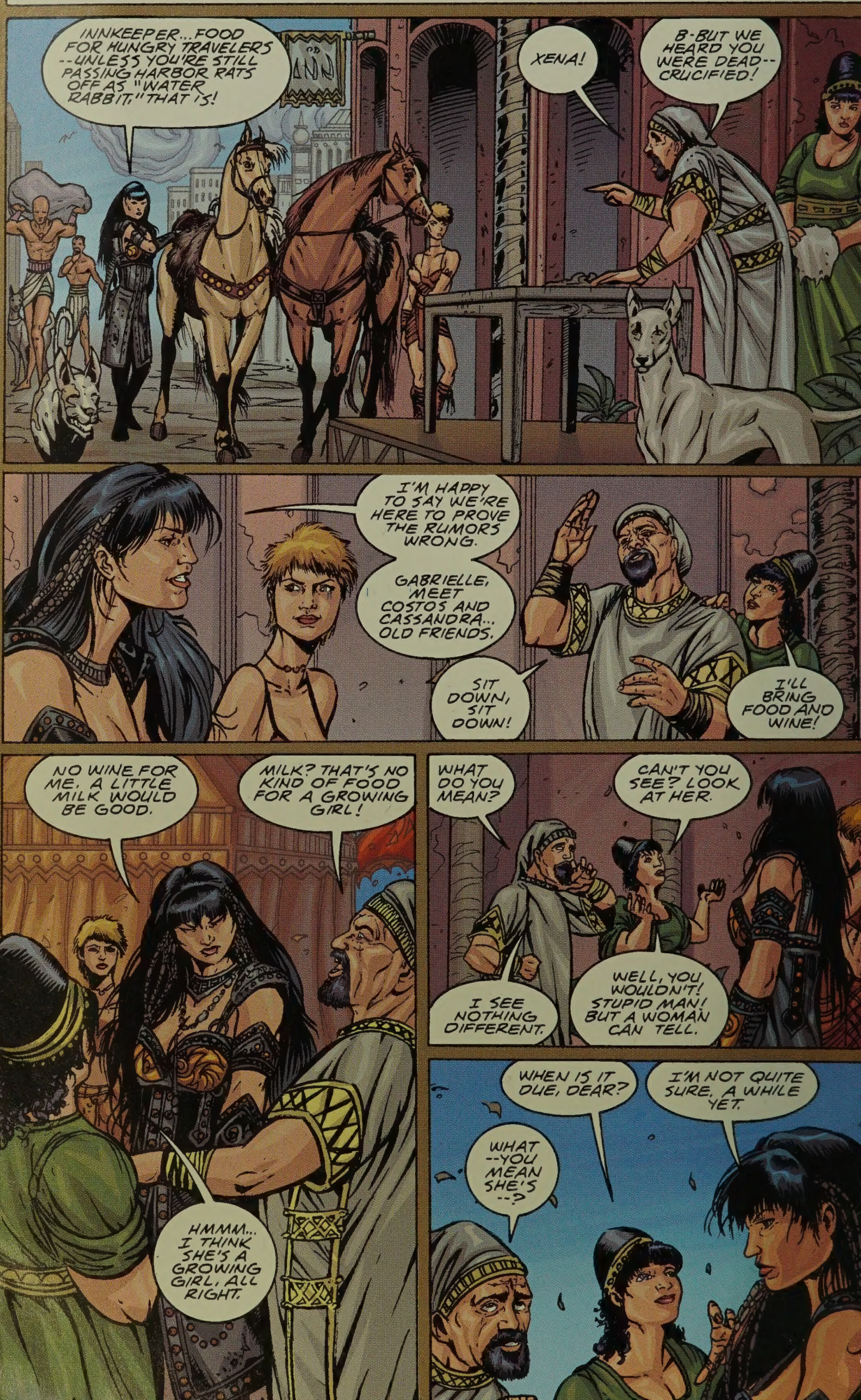
www.darkhorse.com

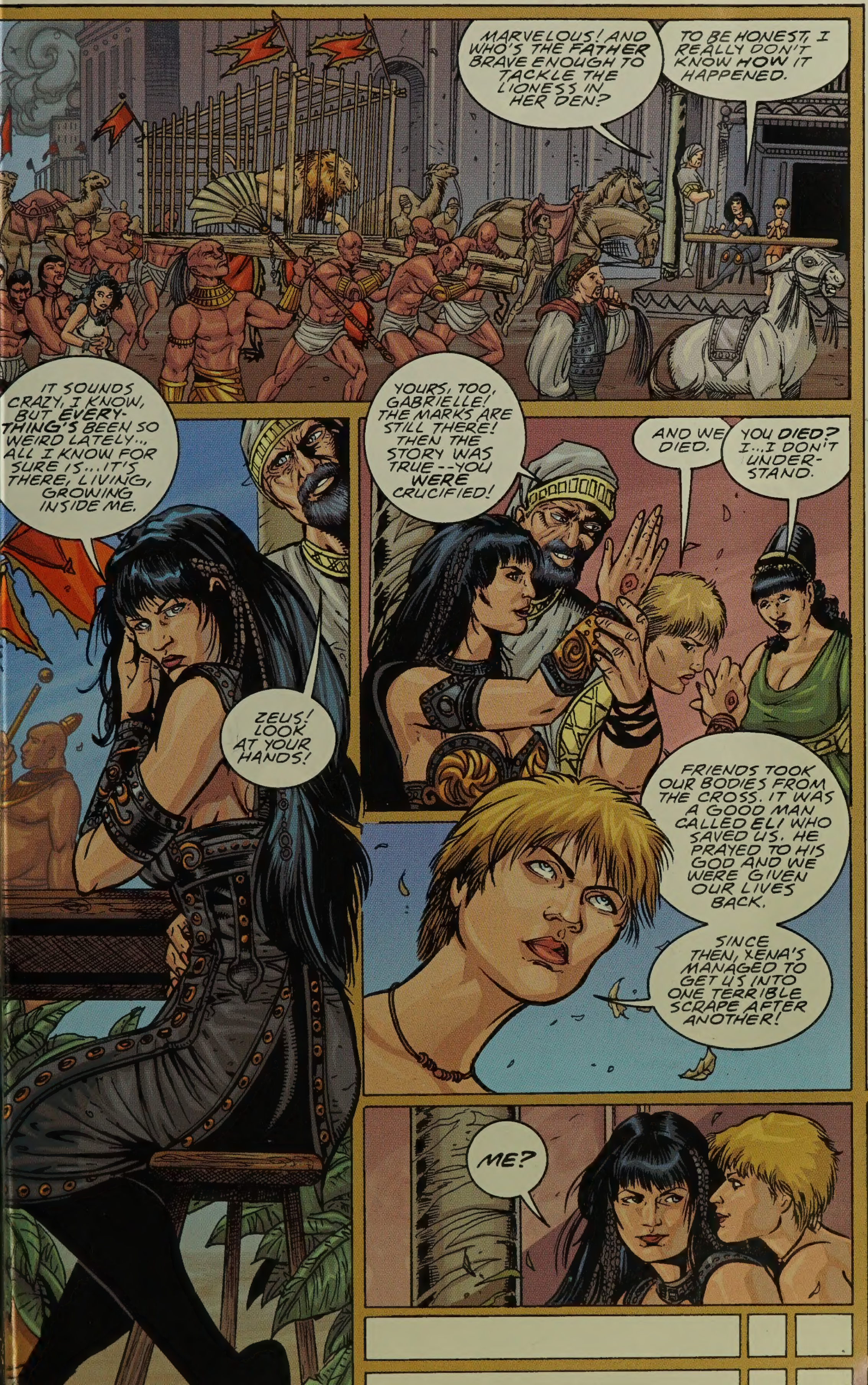
To find a comics shop in your area, call the Comic Shop Locator Service toll free at 1-888-266-4226

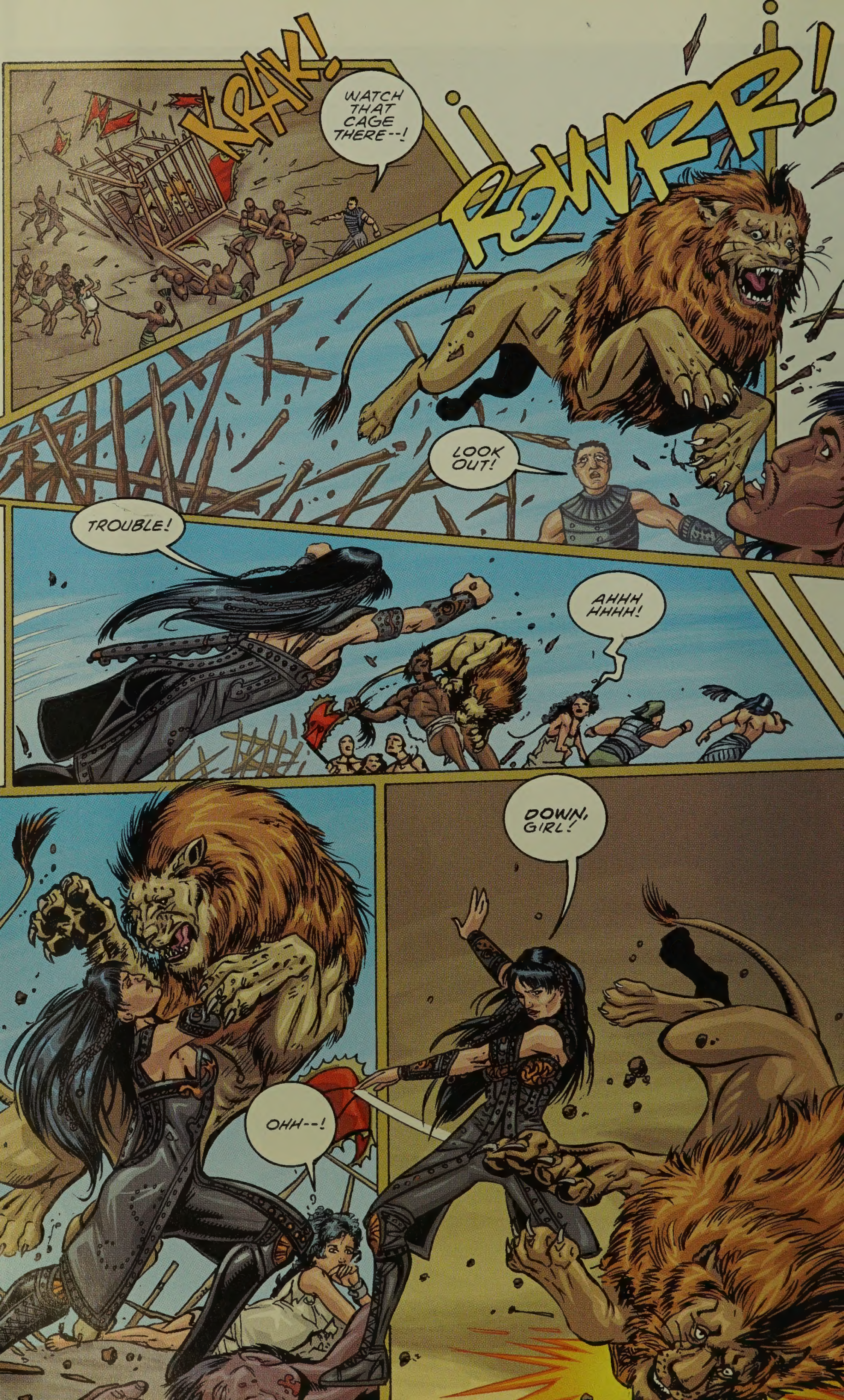
First edition: October 2000
ISBN: 1-56971-471-1

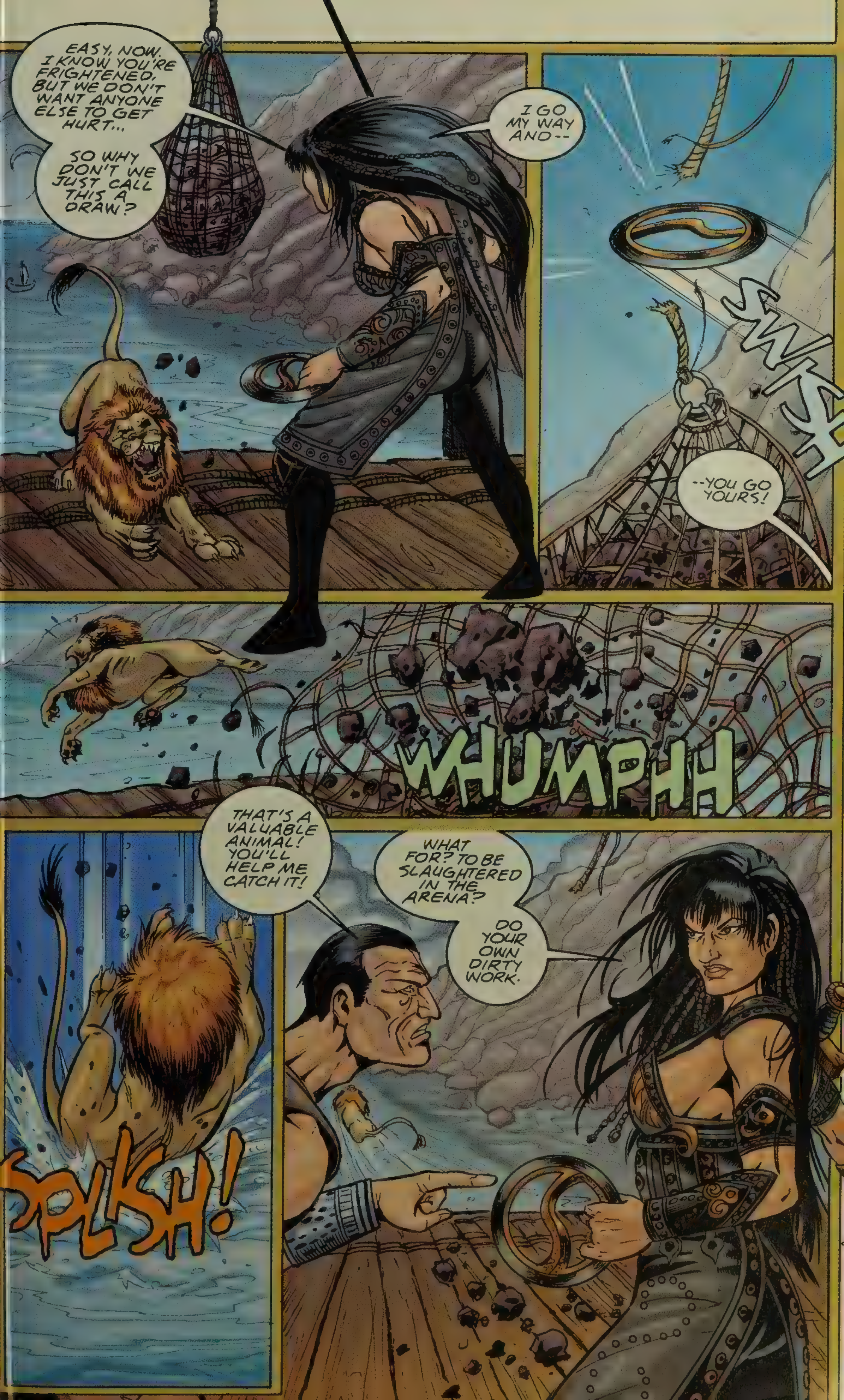
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
Printed in Canada

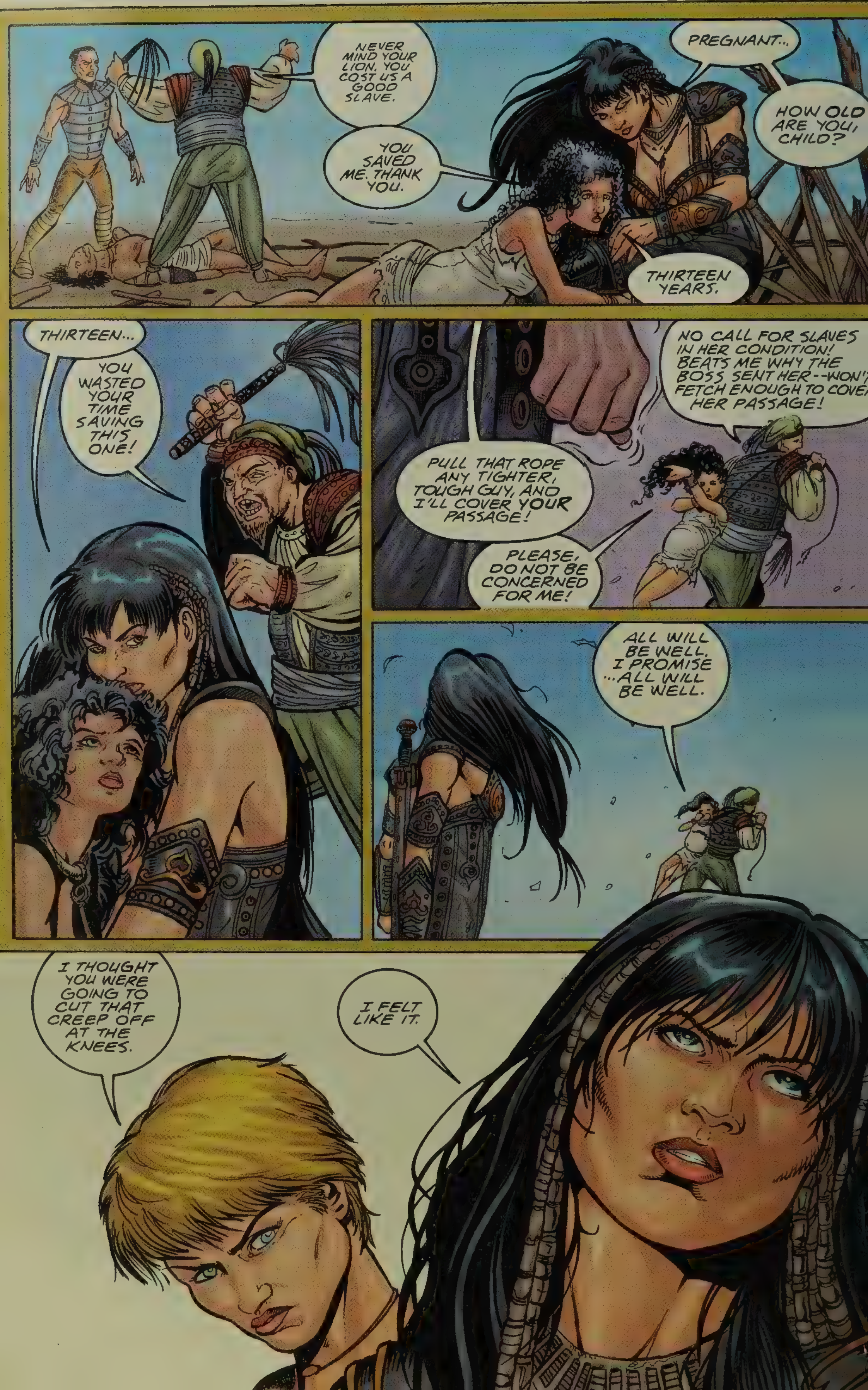

THERE'S SOMETHING SO EXCITING ABOUT A SEAPORT!
LIKE THERE'RE A THOUSAND ADVENTURES JUST WAITING TO WHISK YOU AWAY--MYSTERY! INTRIGUE! ROMANCE!
PERSONALLY, I CAN DO WITHOUT ANY MORE ADVENTURES FOR A WHILE.
SLAVES ON DECK! LOOK LIVELY THERE!

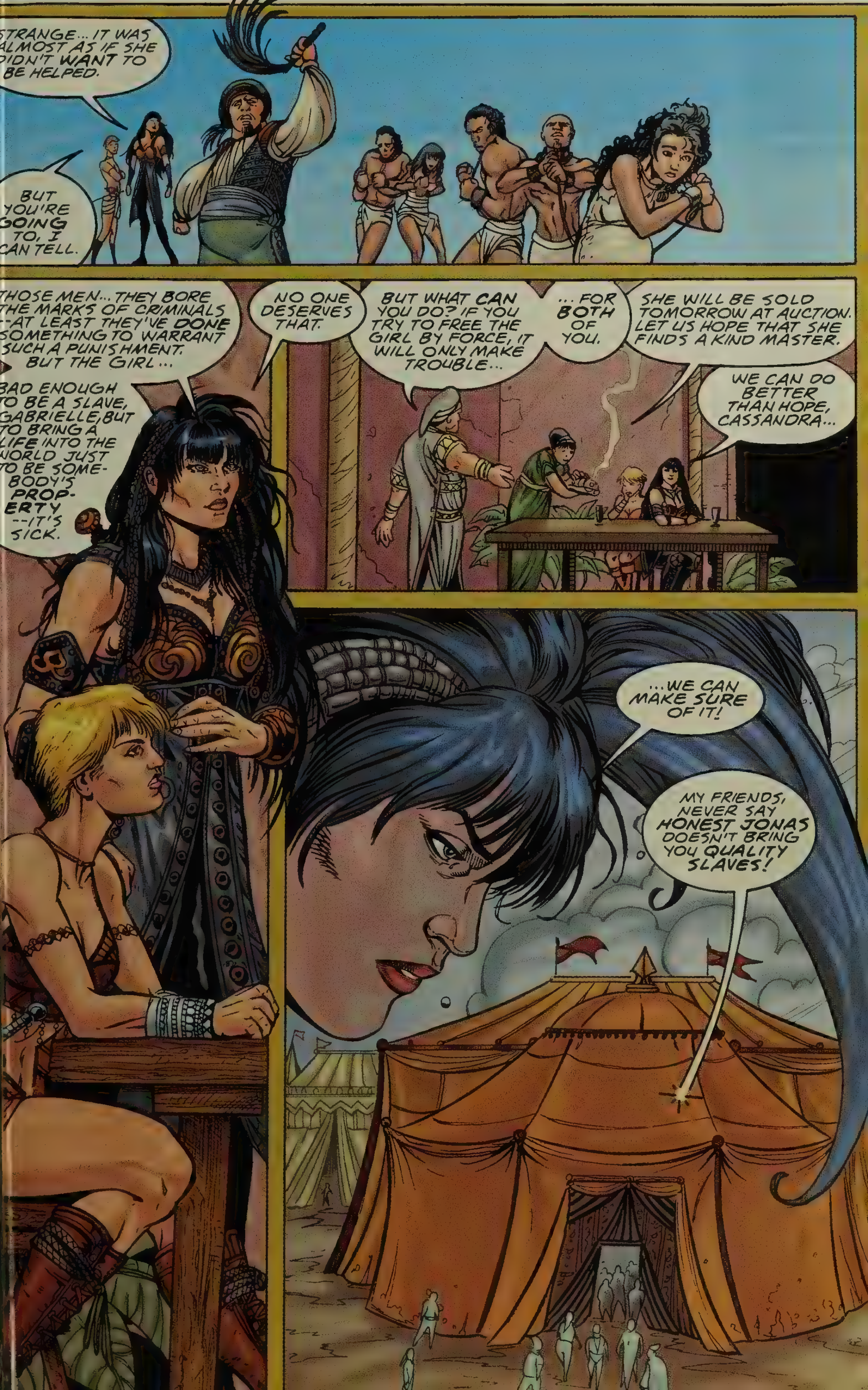

INNKEEPER...FOOD FOR HUNGRY TRAVELERS --UNLESS YOU'RE STILL PASSING HARBOR RATS OFF AS "WATER RABBIT," THAT IS!
XENA!
B-BUT WE HEARD YOU WERE DEAD-- CRUCIFIED!
I'M HAPPY TO SAY WE'RE HERE TO PROVE THE RUMORS WRONG.
GABRIELLE, MEET COSTOS AND CASSANDRA... OLD FRIENDS.
SIT DOWN, SIT DOWN!
I'LL BRING FOOD AND WINE!
NO WINE FOR ME. A LITTLE MILK WOULD BE GOOD.
MILK? THAT'S NO KIND OF FOOD FOR A GROWING GIRL!
HMMM... I THINK SHE'S A GROWING GIRL, ALL RIGHT.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
CAN'T YOU SEE? LOOK AT HER.
I SEE NOTHING DIFFERENT.
WELL, YOU WOULDN'T! STUPID MAN! BUT A WOMAN CAN TELL.
WHEN IS IT DUE, DEAR?
I'M NOT QUITE SURE. A WHILE YET.
WHAT --YOU MEAN SHE'S --?

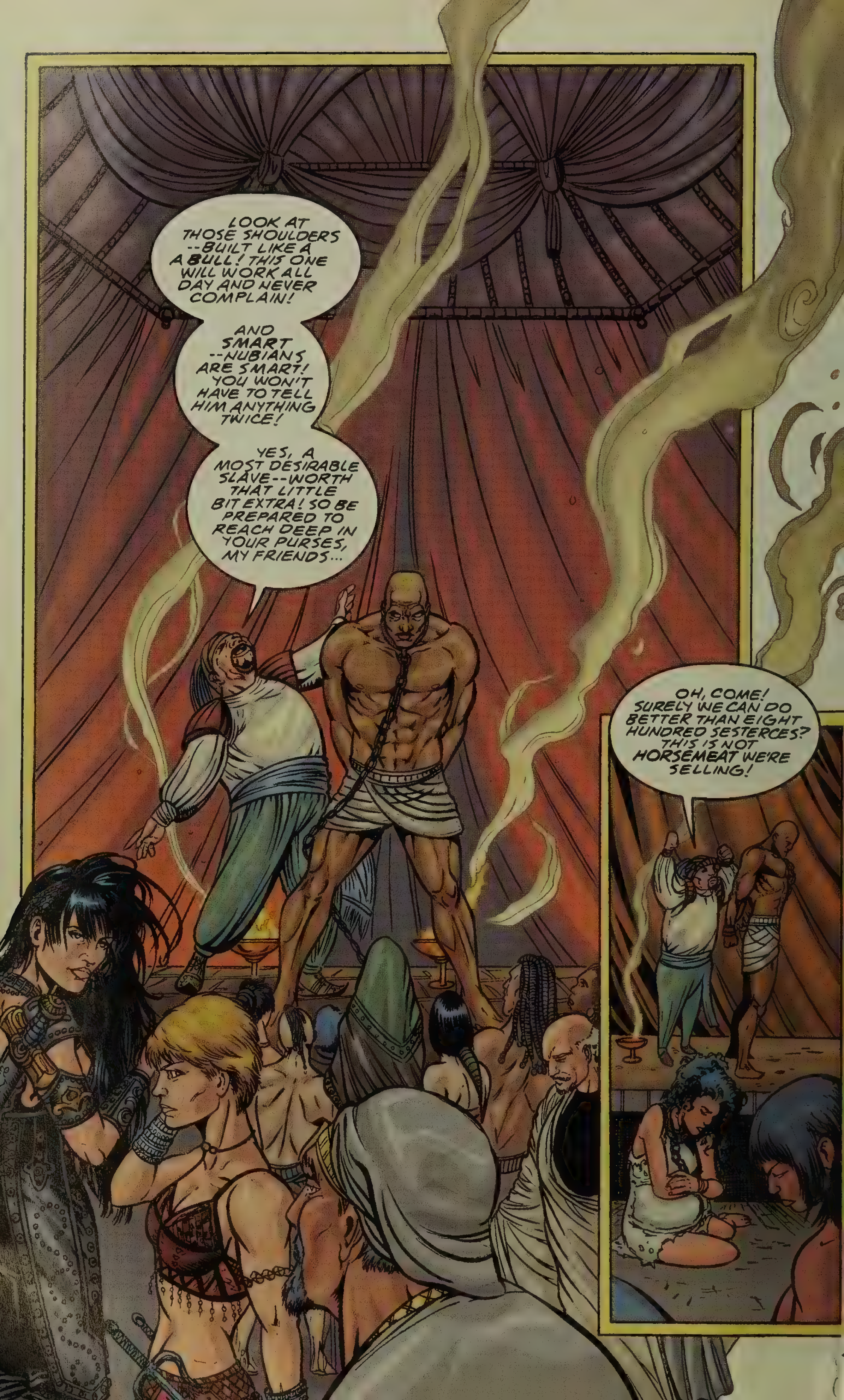

MARVELOUS! AND WHO'S THE FATHER BRAVE ENOUGH TO TACKLE THE LIONESS IN HER DEN?
TO BE HONEST, I REALLY DON'T KNOW HOW IT HAPPENED.
IT SOUNDS CRAZY, I KNOW, BUT EVERYTHING'S BEEN SO WEIRD LATELY... ALL I KNOW FOR SURE IS...IT'S THERE, LIVING, GROWING INSIDE ME.
ZEUS! LOOK AT YOUR HANDS!
YOURS, TOO, GABRIELLE! THE MARKS ARE STILL THERE! THEN THE STORY WAS TRUE--YOU WERE CRUCIFIED!
AND WE DIED.
YOU DIED? I...I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
FRIENDS TOOK OUR BODIES FROM THE CROSS. IT WAS A GOOD MAN CALLED ELI WHO SAVED US. HE PRAYED TO HIS GOD AND WE WERE GIVEN OUR LIVES BACK.
SINCE THEN, XENA'S MANAGED TO GET US INTO ONE TERRIBLE SCRAPE AFTER ANOTHER!
ME?

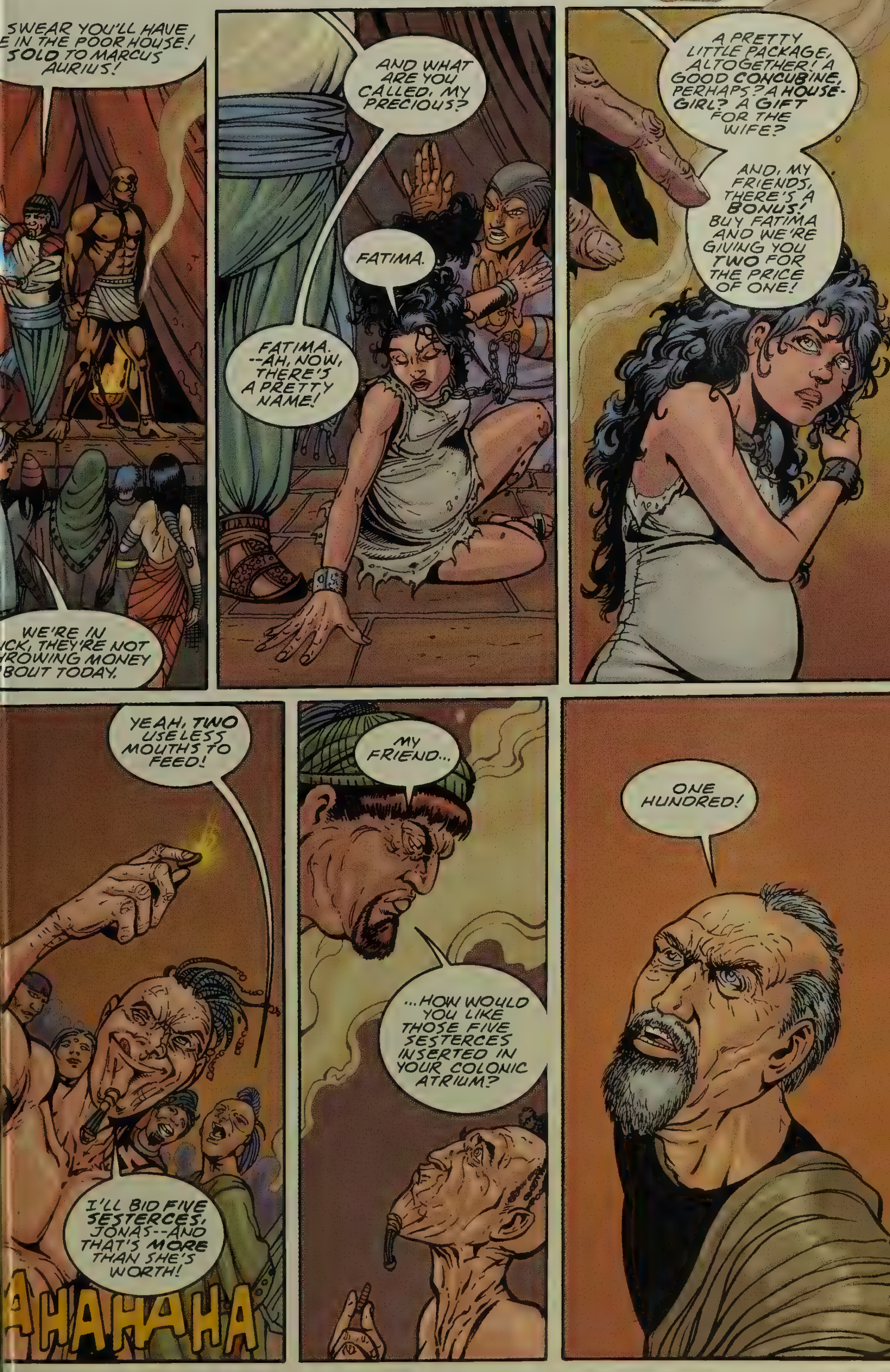

KRAK!
WATCH THAT CAGE THERE--!
RONRR!
LOOK OUT!
TROUBLE!
AHHH HHHH!
OHH--!
DOWN, GIRL!

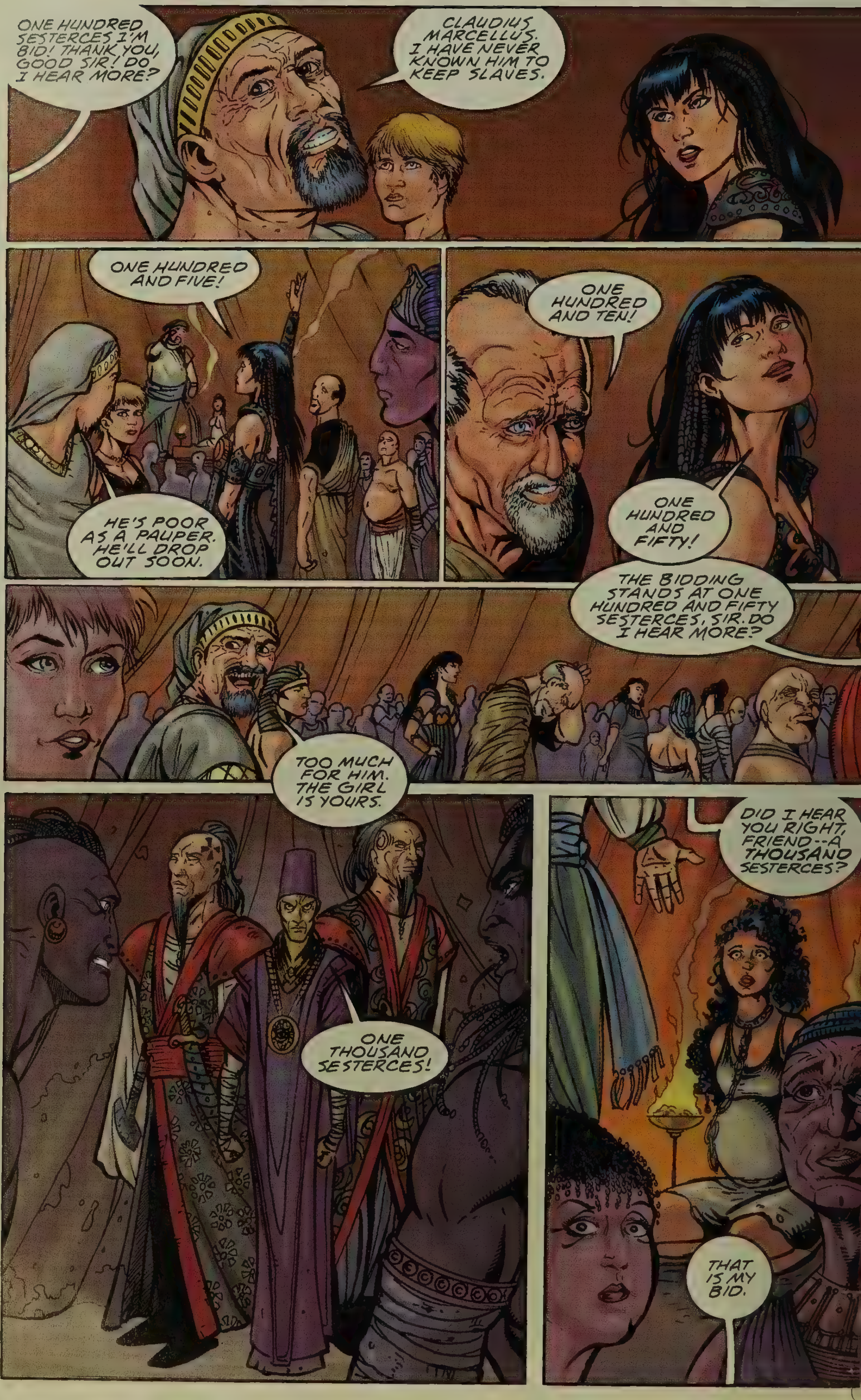

EASY, NOW. I KNOW YOU'RE FRIGHTENED, BUT WE DON'T WANT ANYONE ELSE TO GET HURT...
SO WHY DON'T WE JUST CALL THIS A DRAW?
I GO MY WAY AND--
SWISH
--YOU GO YOURS!
WHUMPHH
SPLASH!
THAT'S A VALUABLE ANIMAL! YOU'LL HELP ME CATCH IT!
WHAT FOR? TO BE SLAUGHTERED IN THE ARENA?
DO YOUR OWN DIRTY WORK.

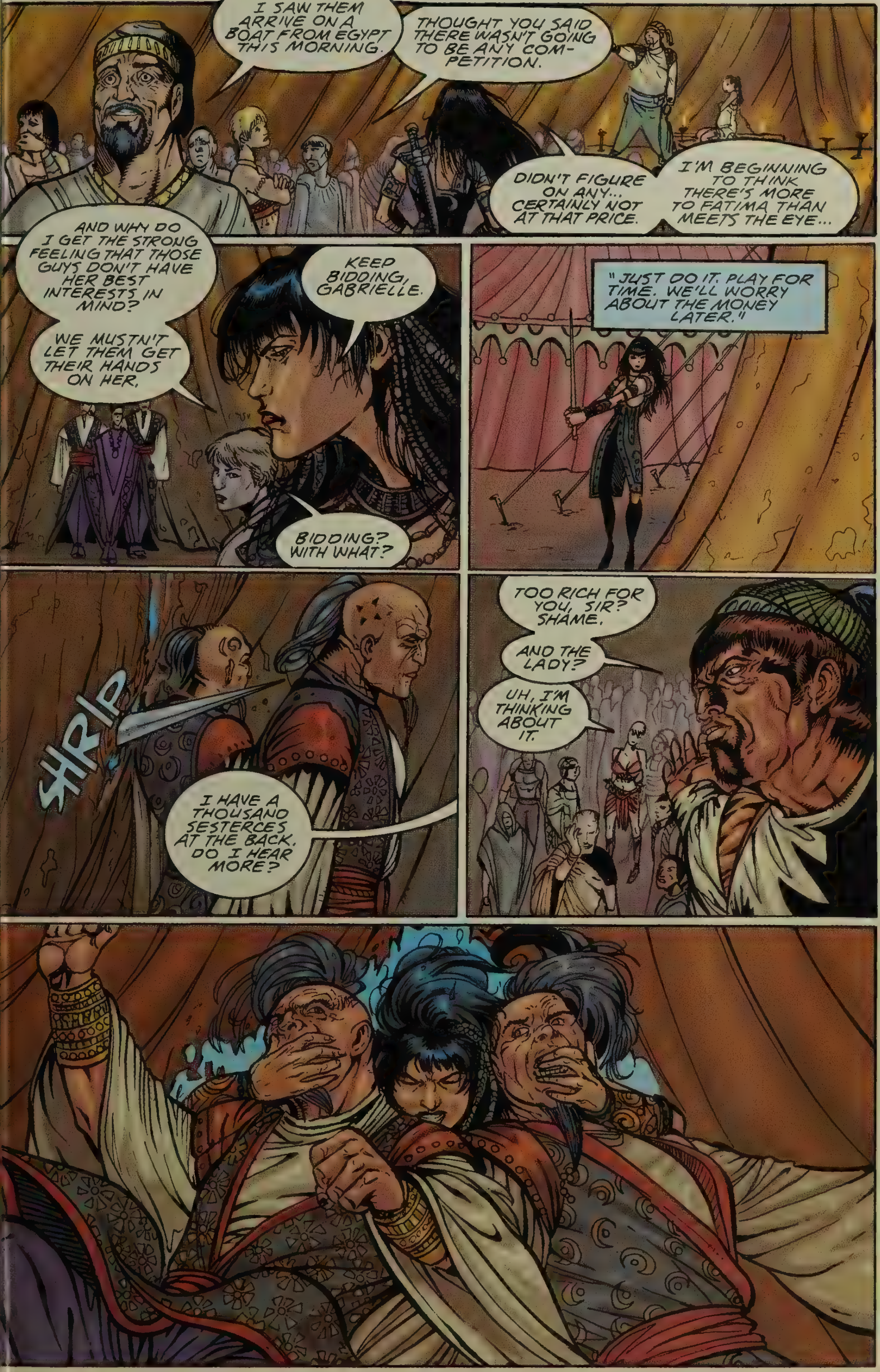

NEVER MIND YOUR LION. YOU COST US A GOOD SLAVE.
YOU SAVED ME. THANK YOU.
PREGNANT...
HOW OLD ARE YOU, CHILD?
THIRTEEN YEARS.
THIRTEEN...
YOU WASTED YOUR TIME SAVING THIS ONE!
NO CALL FOR SLAVES IN HER CONDITION! BEATS ME WHY THE BOSS SENT HER--WON' FETCH ENOUGH TO COVE HER PASSAGE!
PULL THAT ROPE ANY TIGHTER, TOUGH GUY, AND I'LL COVER YOUR PASSAGE!
PLEASE, DO NOT BE CONCERNED FOR ME!
ALL WILL BE WELL. I PROMISE ...ALL WILL BE WELL.
I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO CUT THAT CREEP OFF AT THE KNEES.
I FELT LIKE IT.

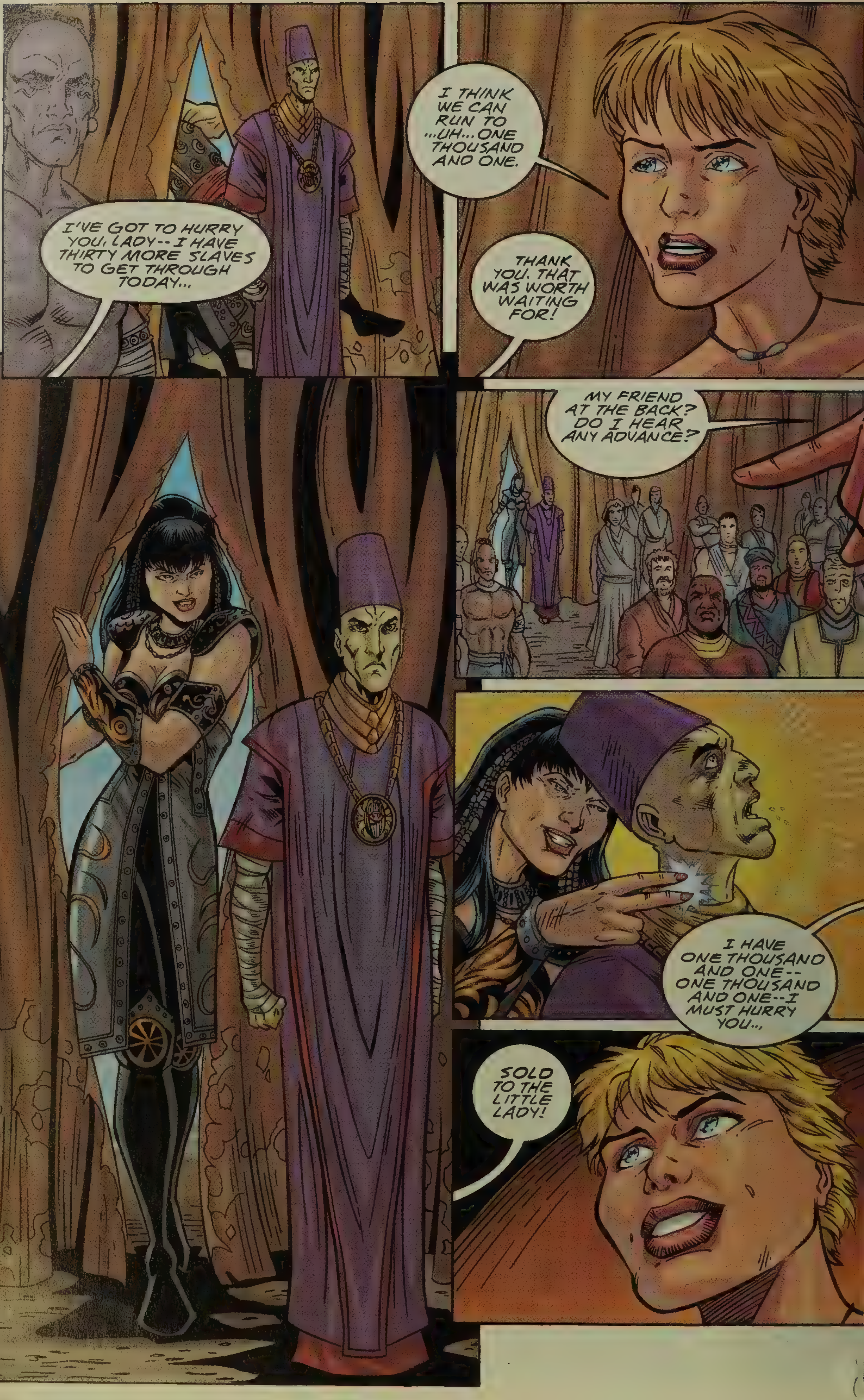

STRANGE... IT WAS ALMOST AS IF SHE DIDN'T WANT TO BE HELPED.
BUT YOU'RE GOING TO, I CAN TELL.
THOSE MEN... THEY BORE THE MARKS OF CRIMINALS --AT LEAST THEY'VE DONE SOMETHING TO WARRANT SUCH A PUNISHMENT. BUT THE GIRL...
BAD ENOUGH TO BE A SLAVE, GABRIELLE, BUT TO BRING A LIFE INTO THE WORLD JUST TO BE SOMEBODY'S PROPERTY --IT'S SICK.
NO ONE DESERVES THAT.
BUT WHAT CAN YOU DO? IF YOU TRY TO FREE THE GIRL BY FORCE, IT WILL ONLY MAKE TROUBLE...
...FOR BOTH OF YOU.
SHE WILL BE SOLD TOMORROW AT AUCTION. LET US HOPE THAT SHE FINDS A KIND MASTER.
WE CAN DO BETTER THAN HOPE, CASSANDRA...
...WE CAN MAKE SURE OF IT!
MY FRIENDS, NEVER SAY HONEST JONAS DOESN'T BRING YOU QUALITY SLAVES!

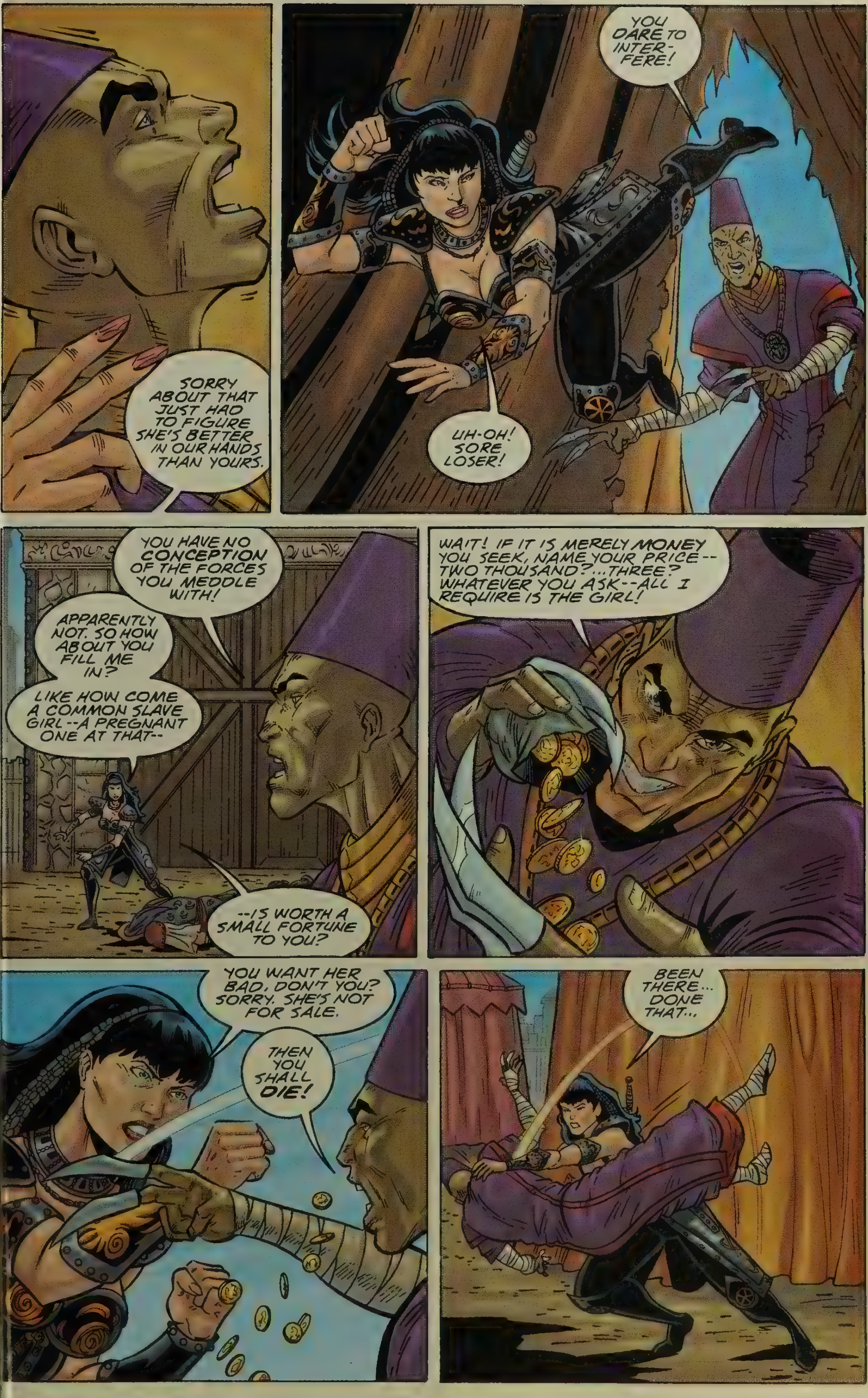

LOOK AT THOSE SHOULDERS --BUILT LIKE A A BULL! THIS ONE WILL WORK ALL DAY AND NEVER COMPLAIN!
AND SMART --NUBIANS ARE SMART! YOU WON'T HAVE TO TELL HIM ANYTHING TWICE!
YES, A MOST DESIRABLE SLAVE--WORTH THAT LITTLE BIT EXTRA! SO BE PREPARED TO REACH DEEP IN YOUR PURSES, MY FRIENDS...
OH, COME! SURELY WE CAN DO BETTER THAN EIGHT HUNDRED SESTERCES? THIS IS NOT HORSEMEAT WE'RE SELLING!

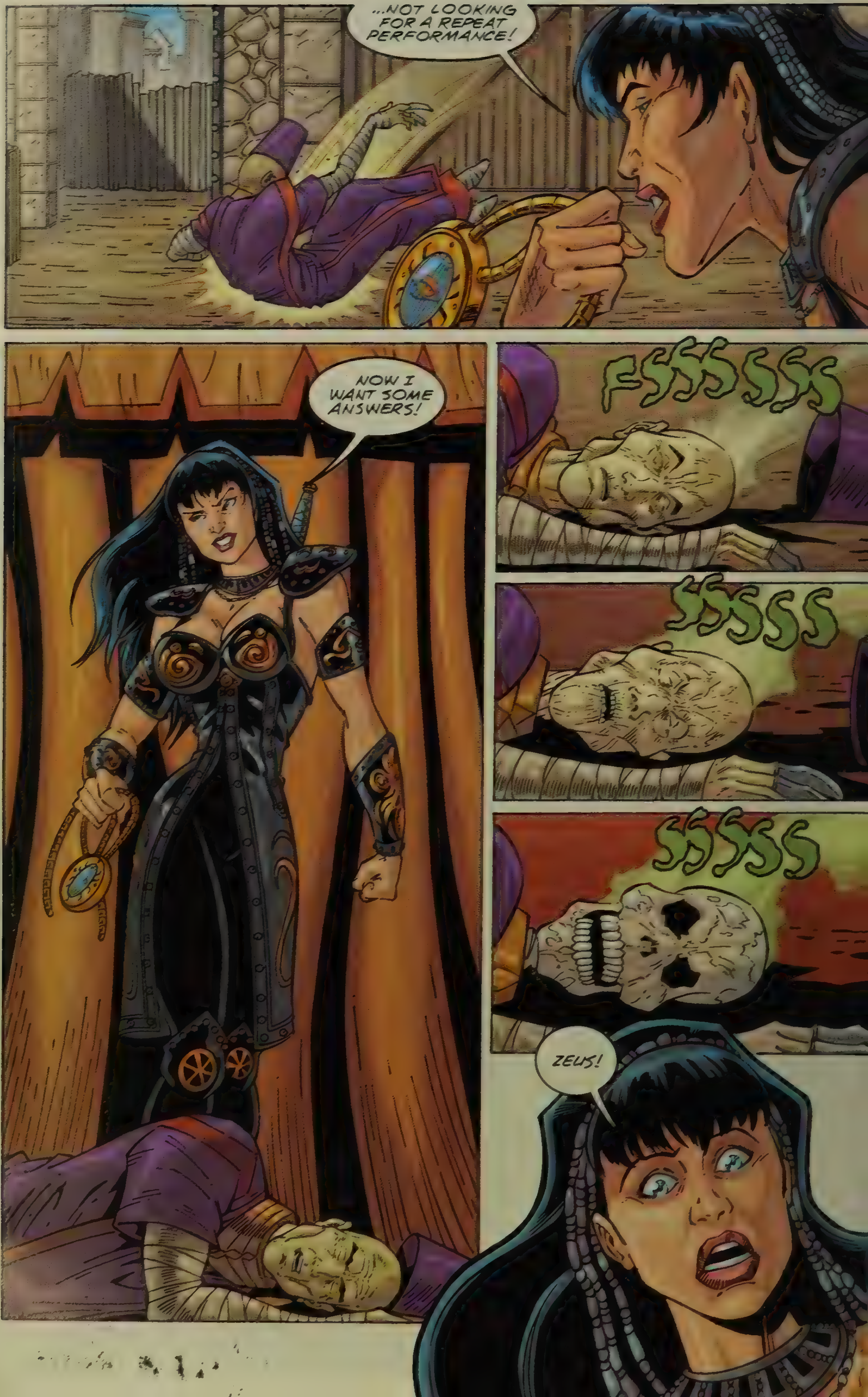

SWEAR YOU'LL HAVE E IN THE POOR HOUSE! SOLD TO MARCUS AURIUS!
WE'RE IN ICK, THEY'RE NOT HROWING MONEY BOUT TODAY.
AND WHAT ARE YOU CALLED, MY PRECIOUS?
FATIMA.
FATIMA. --AH, NOW, THERE'S A PRETTY NAME!
A PRETTY LITTLE PACKAGE, ALTOGETHER! A GOOD CONCUBINE, PERHAPS? A HOUSE-GIRL? A GIFT FOR THE WIFE?
AND, MY FRIENDS, THERE'S A BONUS! BUY FATIMA AND WE'RE GIVING YOU TWO FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!
YEAH, TWO USELESS MOUTHS TO FEED!
I'LL BID FIVE SESTERCES, JONAS--AND THAT'S MORE THAN SHE'S WORTH!
HAHAHAHA
MY FRIEND...
...HOW WOULD YOU LIKE THOSE FIVE SESTERCES INSERTED IN YOUR COLONIC ATRIUM?
ONE HUNDRED!

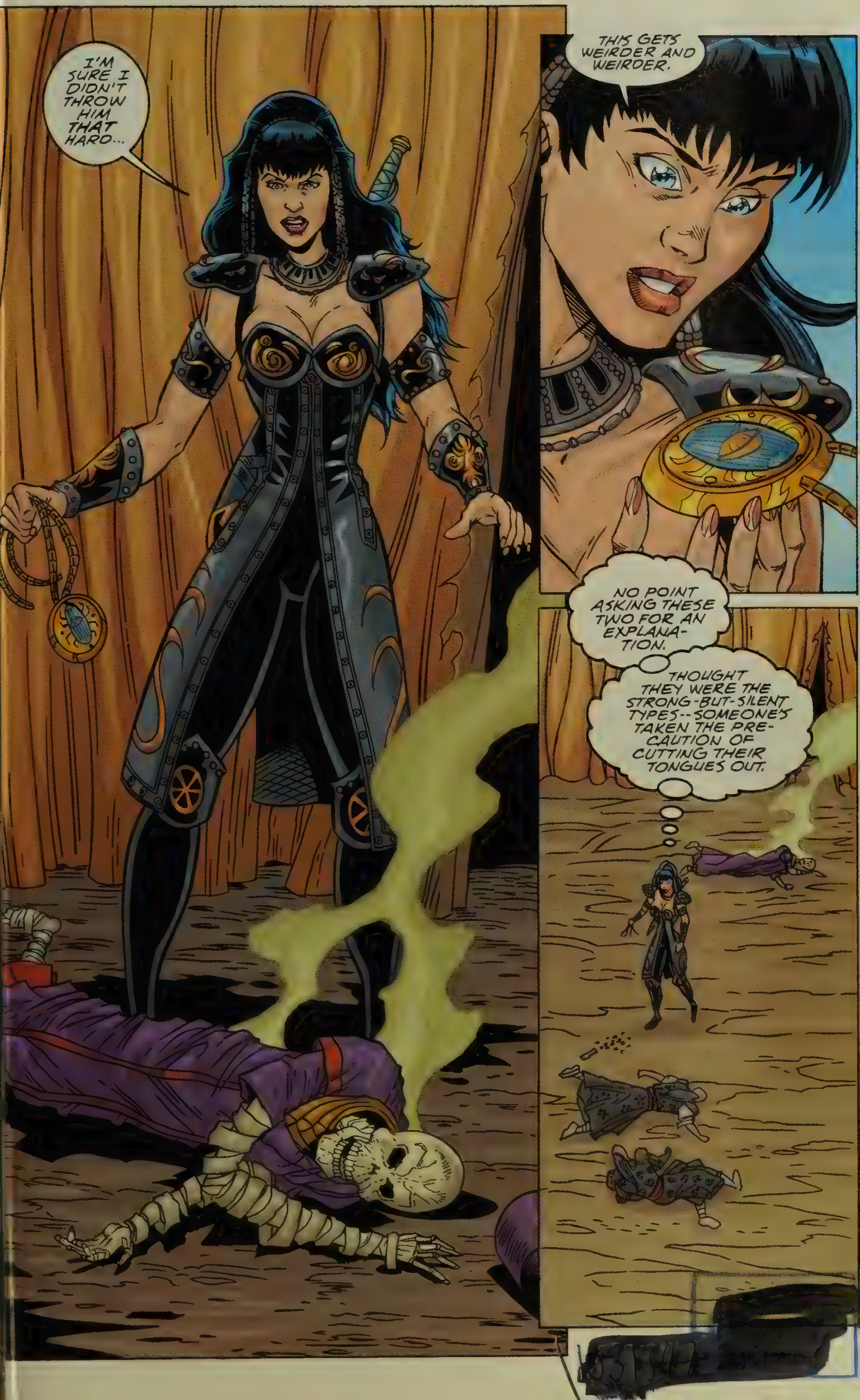

ONE HUNDRED SESTERCES I'M BID! THANK YOU, GOOD SIR! DO I HEAR MORE?
CLAUDIUS MARCELLUS. I HAVE NEVER KNOWN HIM TO KEEP SLAVES.
ONE HUNDRED AND FIVE!
HE'S POOR AS A PAUPER. HE'LL DROP OUT SOON.
ONE HUNDRED AND TEN!
ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY!
THE BIDDING STANDS AT ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY SESTERCES, SIR. DO I HEAR MORE?
TOO MUCH FOR HIM. THE GIRL IS YOURS.
ONE THOUSAND SESTERCES!
DID I HEAR YOU RIGHT, FRIEND--A THOUSAND SESTERCES?
THAT IS MY BID.

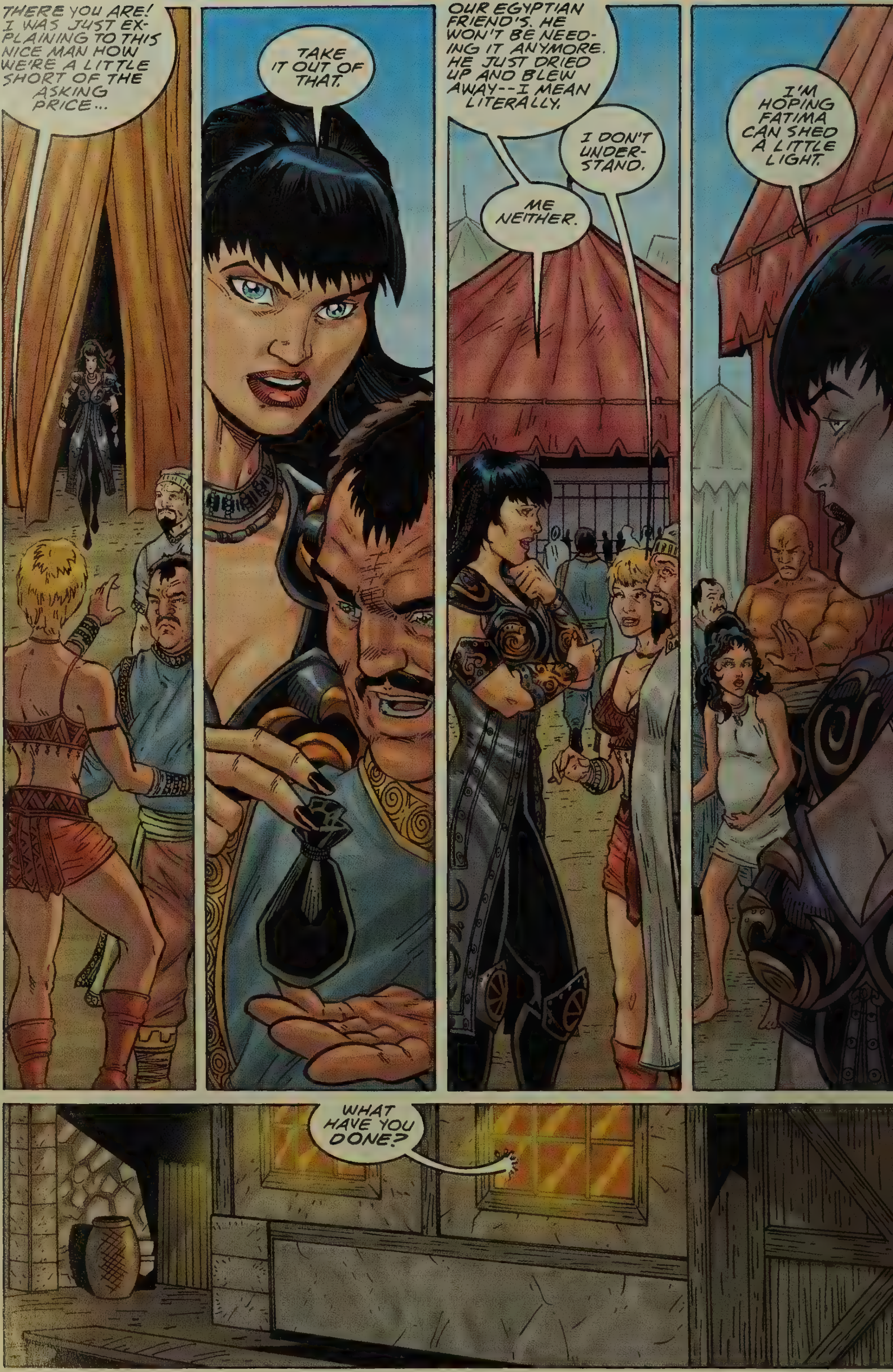

I SAW THEM ARRIVE ON A BOAT FROM EGYPT THIS MORNING.
THOUGHT YOU SAID THERE WASN'T GOING TO BE ANY COMPETITION.
DIDN'T FIGURE ON ANY... CERTAINLY NOT AT THAT PRICE.
I'M BEGINNING TO THINK THERE'S MORE TO FATIMA THAN MEETS THE EYE...
AND WHY DO I GET THE STRONG FEELING THAT THOSE GUYS DON'T HAVE HER BEST INTERESTS IN MIND?
WE MUSTN'T LET THEM GET THEIR HANDS ON HER.
KEEP BIDDING, GABRIELLE.
BIDDING? WITH WHAT?
"JUST DO IT. PLAY FOR TIME. WE'LL WORRY ABOUT THE MONEY LATER."
SHRIP
I HAVE A THOUSAND SESTERCES AT THE BACK. DO I HEAR MORE?
TOO RICH FOR YOU, SIR? SHAME.
AND THE LADY?
UH, I'M THINKING ABOUT IT.

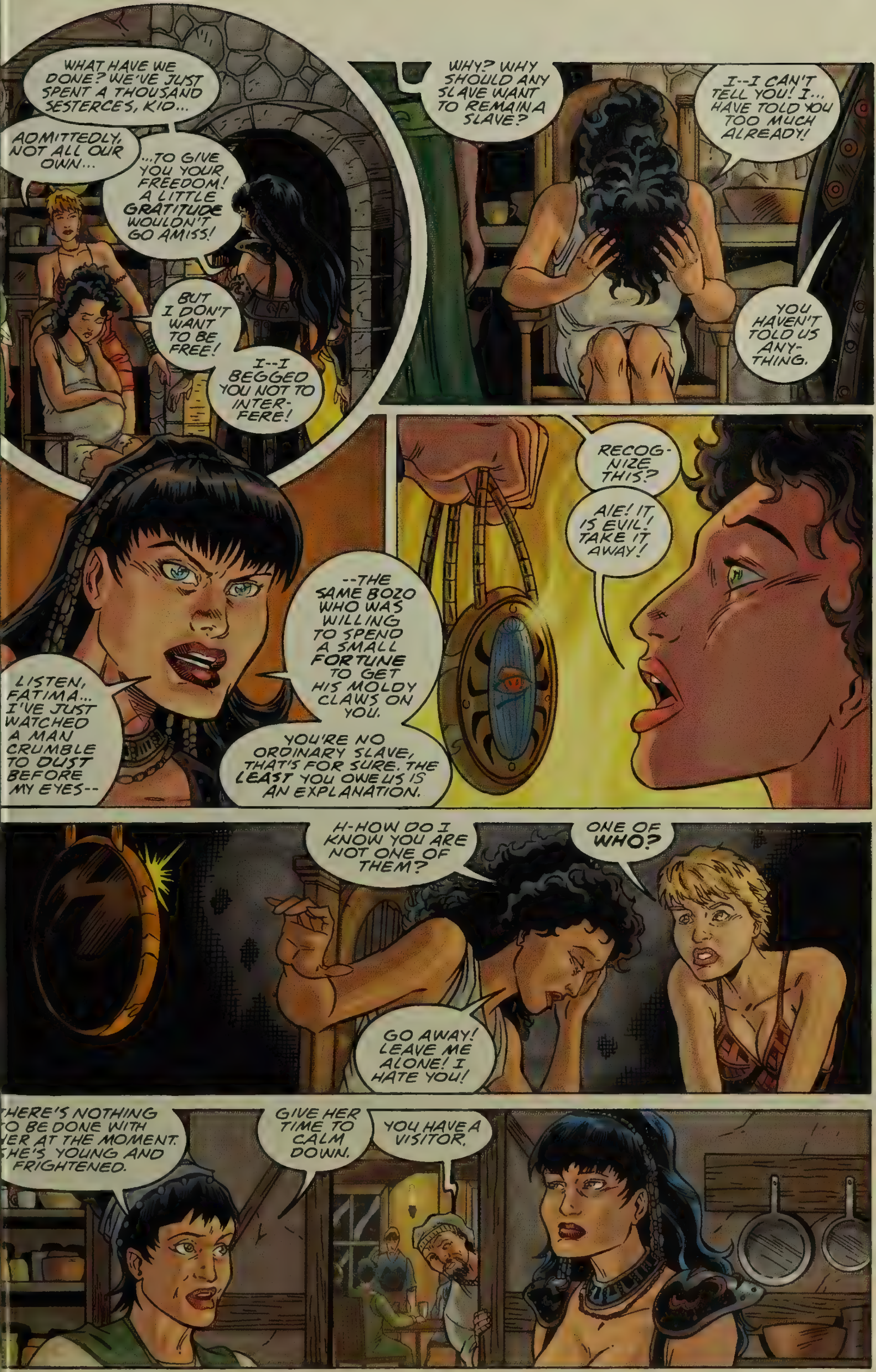

I'VE GOT TO HURRY YOU, LADY-- I HAVE THIRTY MORE SLAVES TO GET THROUGH TODAY...
I THINK WE CAN RUN TO ...UH...ONE THOUSAND AND ONE.
THANK YOU. THAT WAS WORTH WAITING FOR!
MY FRIEND AT THE BACK? DO I HEAR ANY ADVANCE?
I HAVE ONE THOUSAND AND ONE-- ONE THOUSAND AND ONE--I MUST HURRY YOU..,
SOLD TO THE LITTLE LADY!

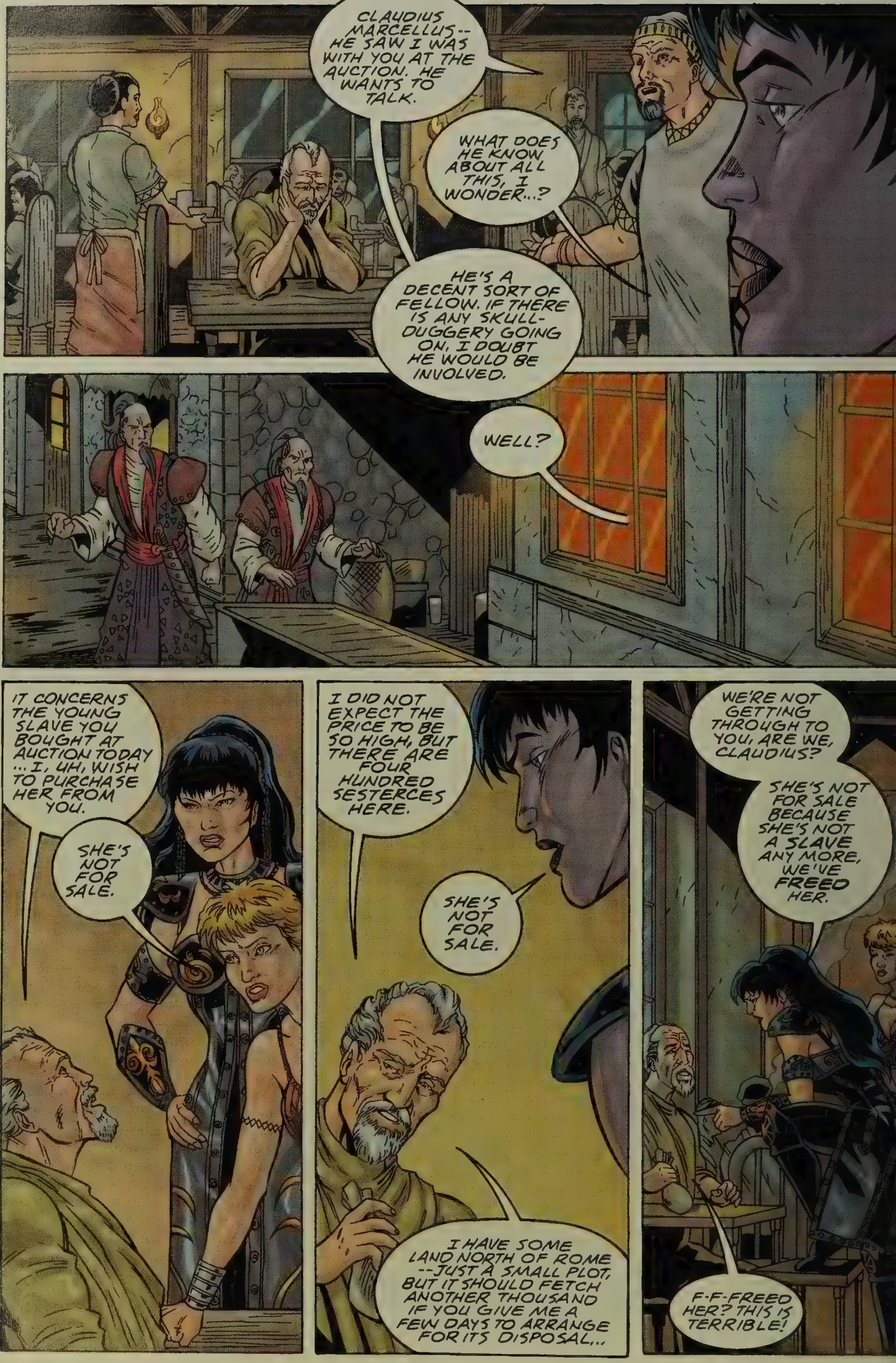

SORRY ABOUT THAT JUST HAD TO FIGURE SHE'S BETTER IN OUR HANDS THAN YOURS.
YOU DARE TO INTERFERE!
UH-OH! SORE LOSER!
YOU HAVE NO CONCEPTION OF THE FORCES YOU MEDDLE WITH!
APPARENTLY NOT. SO HOW ABOUT YOU FILL ME IN?
LIKE HOW COME A COMMON SLAVE GIRL--A PREGNANT ONE AT THAT--
--IS WORTH A SMALL FORTUNE TO YOU?
WAIT! IF IT IS MERELY MONEY YOU SEEK, NAME YOUR PRICE--TWO THOUSAND?...THREE? WHATEVER YOU ASK--ALL I REQUIRE IS THE GIRL!
YOU WANT HER BAD, DON'T YOU? SORRY. SHE'S NOT FOR SALE.
THEN YOU SHALL DIE!
BEEN THERE... DONE THAT...

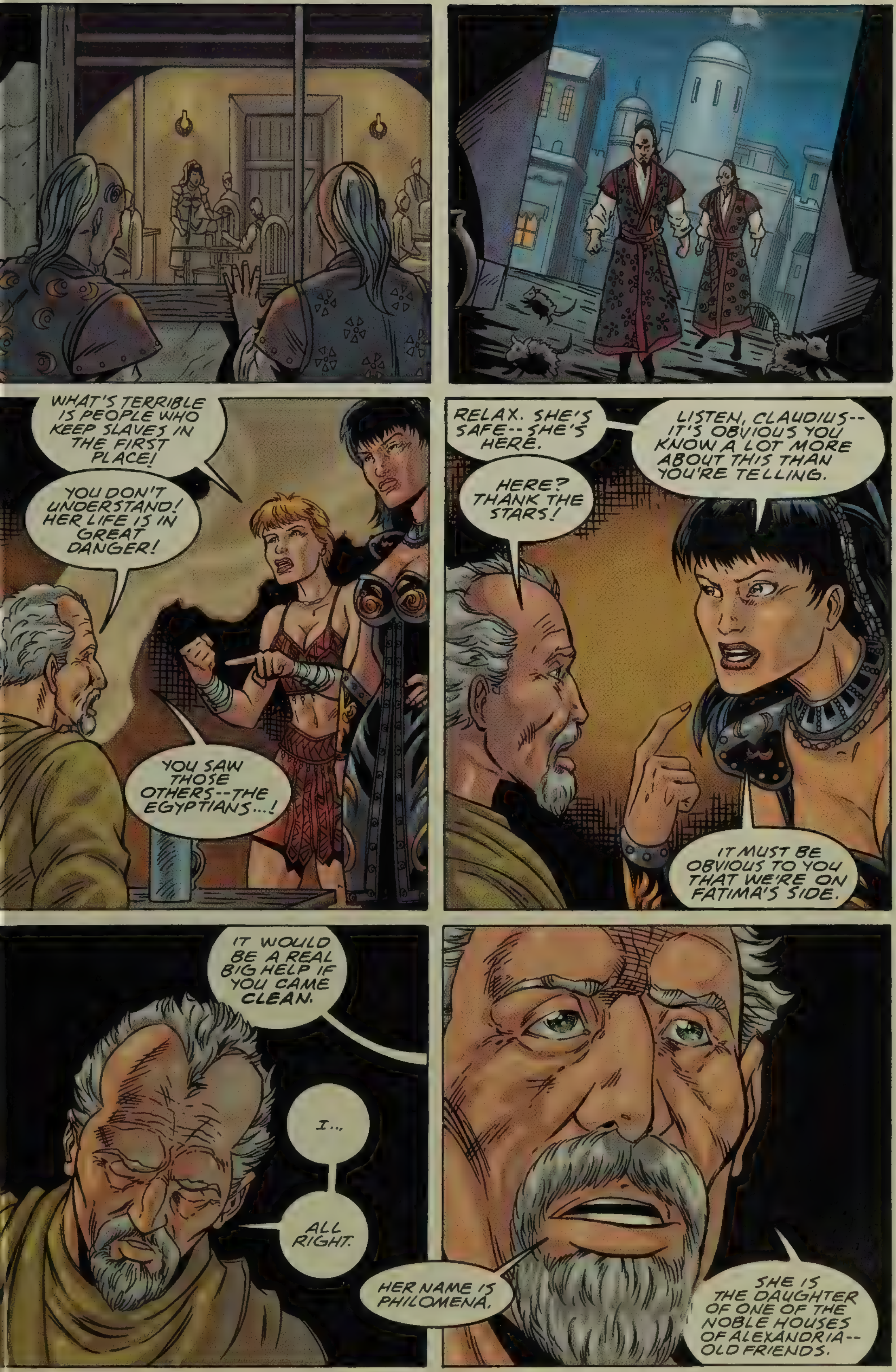

...NOT LOOKING FOR A REPEAT PERFORMANCE!
NOW I WANT SOME ANSWERS!
FSSSSSS
SSSSS
SSSSS
ZEUS!

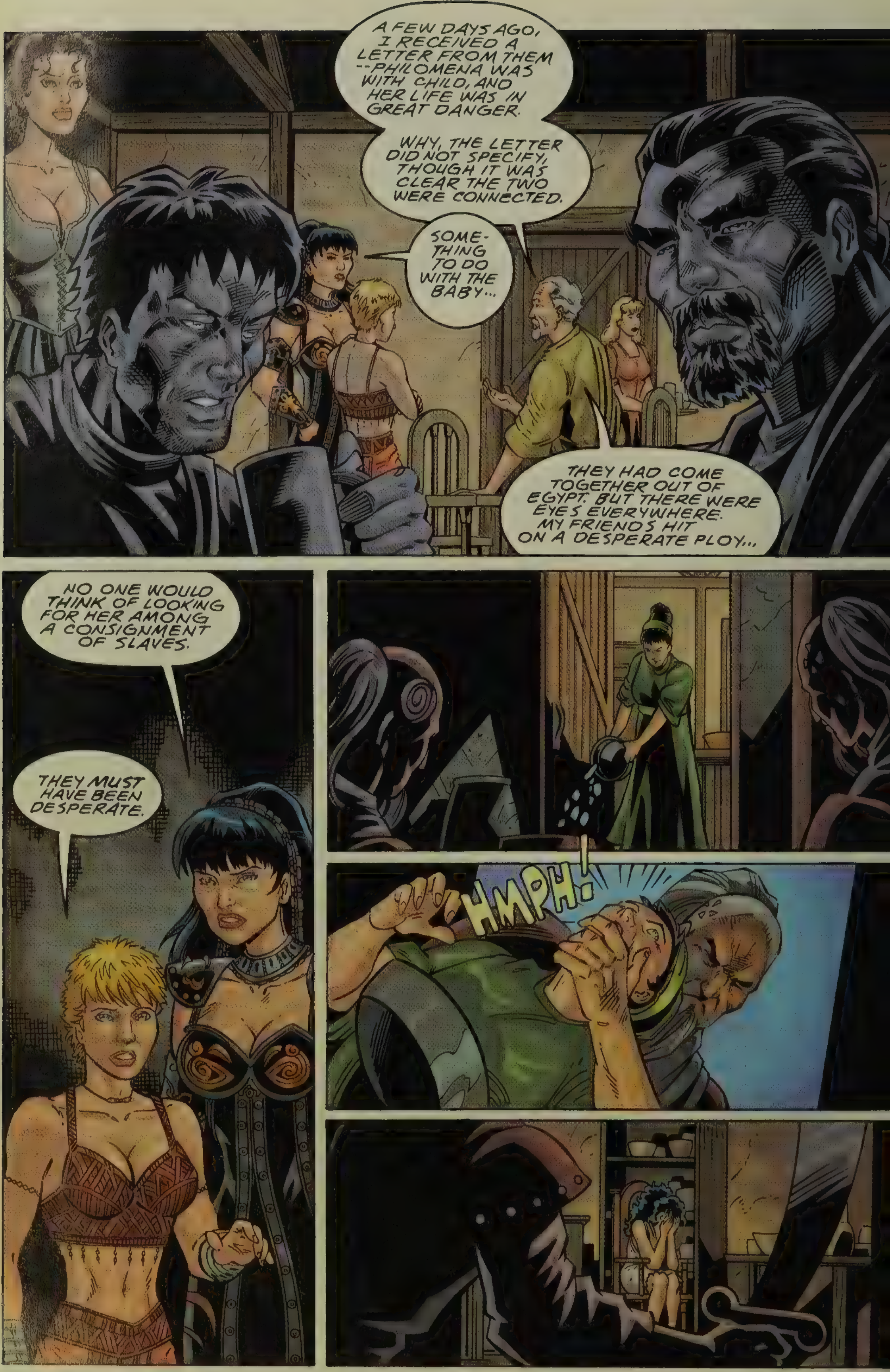

I'M SURE I DIDN'T THROW HIM THAT HARD...
THIS GETS WEIRDER AND WEIRDER.
NO POINT ASKING THESE TWO FOR AN EXPLANATION.
THOUGHT THEY WERE THE STRONG-BUT-SILENT TYPES--SOMEONE'S TAKEN THE PRECAUTION OF CUTTING THEIR TONGUES OUT.

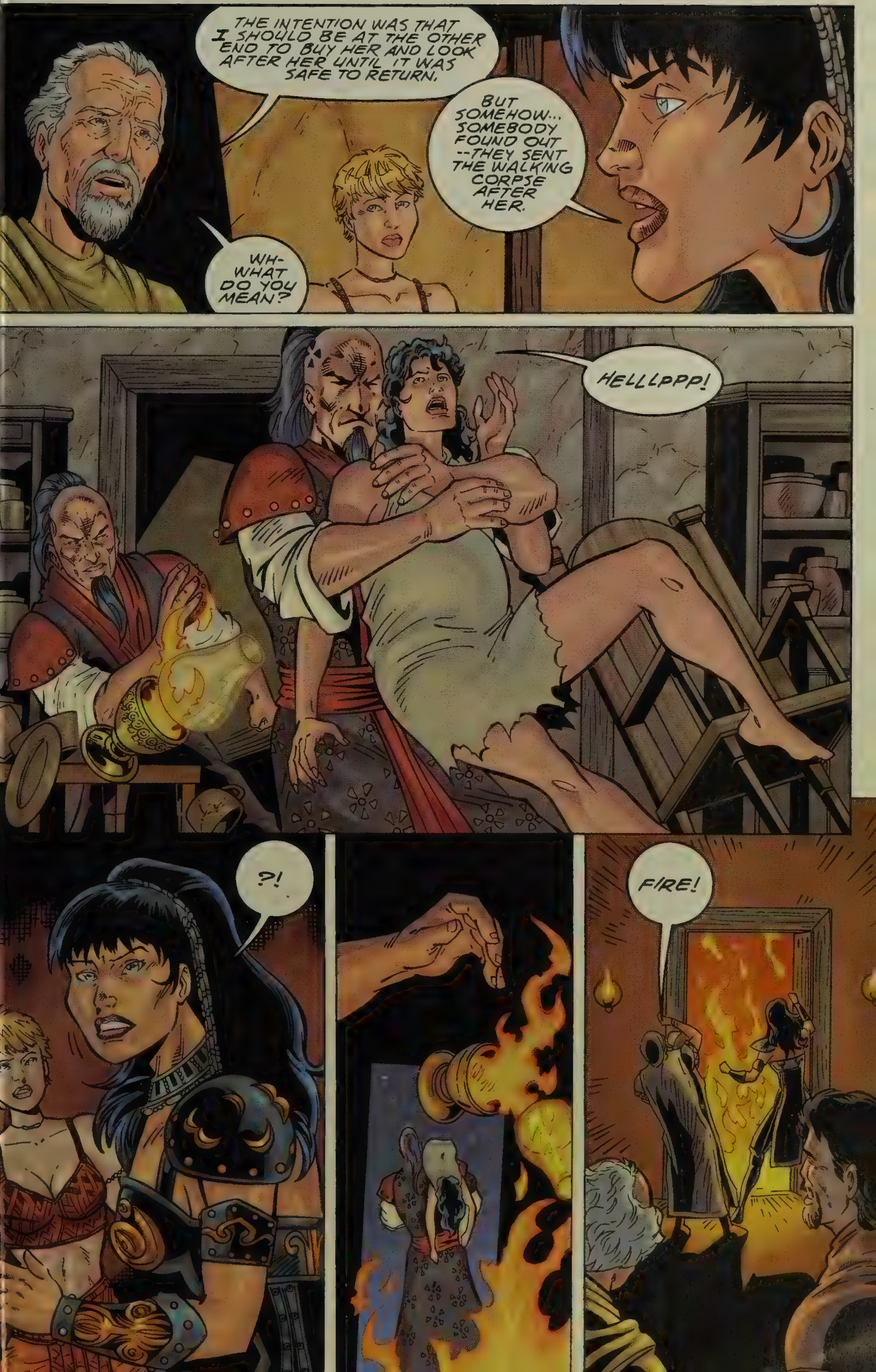

THERE YOU ARE! I WAS JUST EXPLAINING TO THIS NICE MAN HOW WE'RE A LITTLE SHORT OF THE ASKING PRICE...
TAKE IT OUT OF THAT.
OUR EGYPTIAN FRIEND'S. HE WON'T BE NEEDING IT ANYMORE. HE JUST DRIED UP AND BLEW AWAY--I MEAN LITERALLY.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
ME NEITHER.
I'M HOPING FATIMA CAN SHED A LITTLE LIGHT.
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?

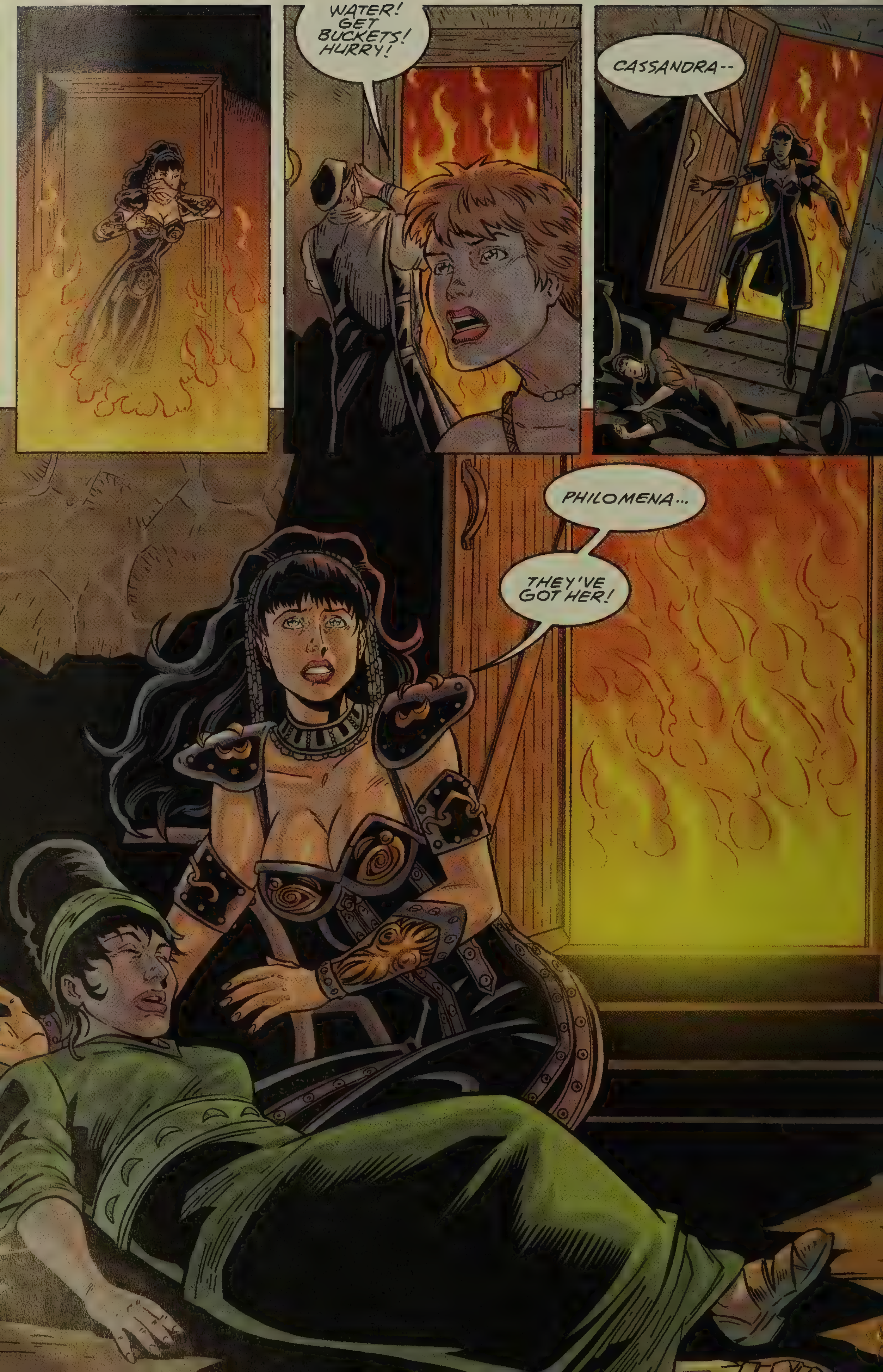

WHAT HAVE WE DONE? WE'VE JUST SPENT A THOUSAND SESTERCES, KID...
ADMITTEDLY, NOT ALL OUR OWN...
...TO GIVE YOU YOUR FREEDOM! A LITTLE **GRATITUDE** WOULDN'T GO AMISS!
BUT I DON'T WANT TO BE FREE!
I--I BEGGED YOU NOT TO INTERFERE!
WHY? WHY SHOULD ANY SLAVE WANT TO REMAIN A SLAVE?
I--I CAN'T TELL YOU! I... HAVE TOLD YOU TOO MUCH ALREADY!
YOU HAVEN'T TOLD US ANYTHING.
LISTEN, FATIMA... I'VE JUST WATCHED A MAN CRUMBLE TO DUST BEFORE MY EYES--
--THE SAME BOZO WHO WAS WILLING TO SPEND A SMALL **FORTUNE** TO GET HIS MOLDY CLAWS ON YOU.
YOU'RE NO ORDINARY SLAVE, THAT'S FOR SURE. THE **LEAST** YOU OWE US IS AN EXPLANATION.
RECOGNIZE THIS?
AIE! IT IS EVIL! TAKE IT AWAY!
H-HOW DO I KNOW YOU ARE NOT ONE OF THEM?
ONE OF **WHO?**
GO AWAY! LEAVE ME ALONE! I HATE YOU!
HERE'S NOTHING O BE DONE WITH ER AT THE MOMENT. HE'S YOUNG AND FRIGHTENED.
GIVE HER TIME TO CALM DOWN.
YOU HAVE A VISITOR.

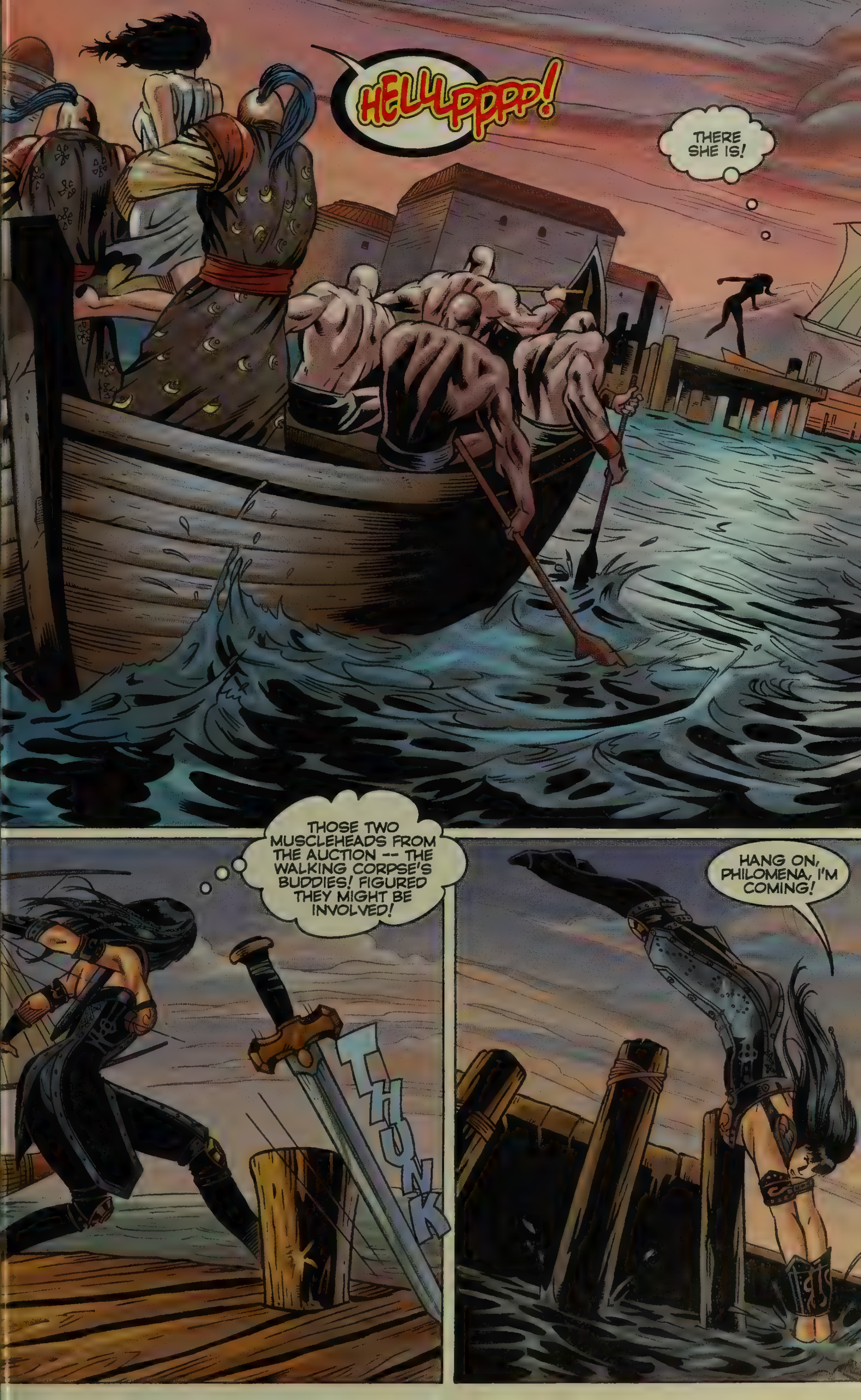

CLAUDIUS MARCELLUS-- HE SAW I WAS WITH YOU AT THE AUCTION. HE WANTS TO TALK.
WHAT DOES HE KNOW ABOUT ALL THIS, I WONDER...?
HE'S A DECENT SORT OF FELLOW. IF THERE IS ANY SKULLDUGGERY GOING ON, I DOUBT HE WOULD BE INVOLVED.
WELL?
IT CONCERNS THE YOUNG SLAVE YOU BOUGHT AT AUCTION TODAY ... I, UH, WISH TO PURCHASE HER FROM YOU.
SHE'S NOT FOR SALE.
I DID NOT EXPECT THE PRICE TO BE SO HIGH, BUT THERE ARE FOUR HUNDRED SESTERCES HERE.
SHE'S NOT FOR SALE.
I HAVE SOME LAND NORTH OF ROME --JUST A SMALL PLOT, BUT IT SHOULD FETCH ANOTHER THOUSAND IF YOU GIVE ME A FEW DAYS TO ARRANGE FOR ITS DISPOSAL...
WE'RE NOT GETTING THROUGH TO YOU, ARE WE, CLAUDIUS?
SHE'S NOT FOR SALE BECAUSE SHE'S NOT A **SLAVE** ANY MORE. WE'VE **FREED** HER.
F-F-FREED HER? THIS IS TERRIBLE!

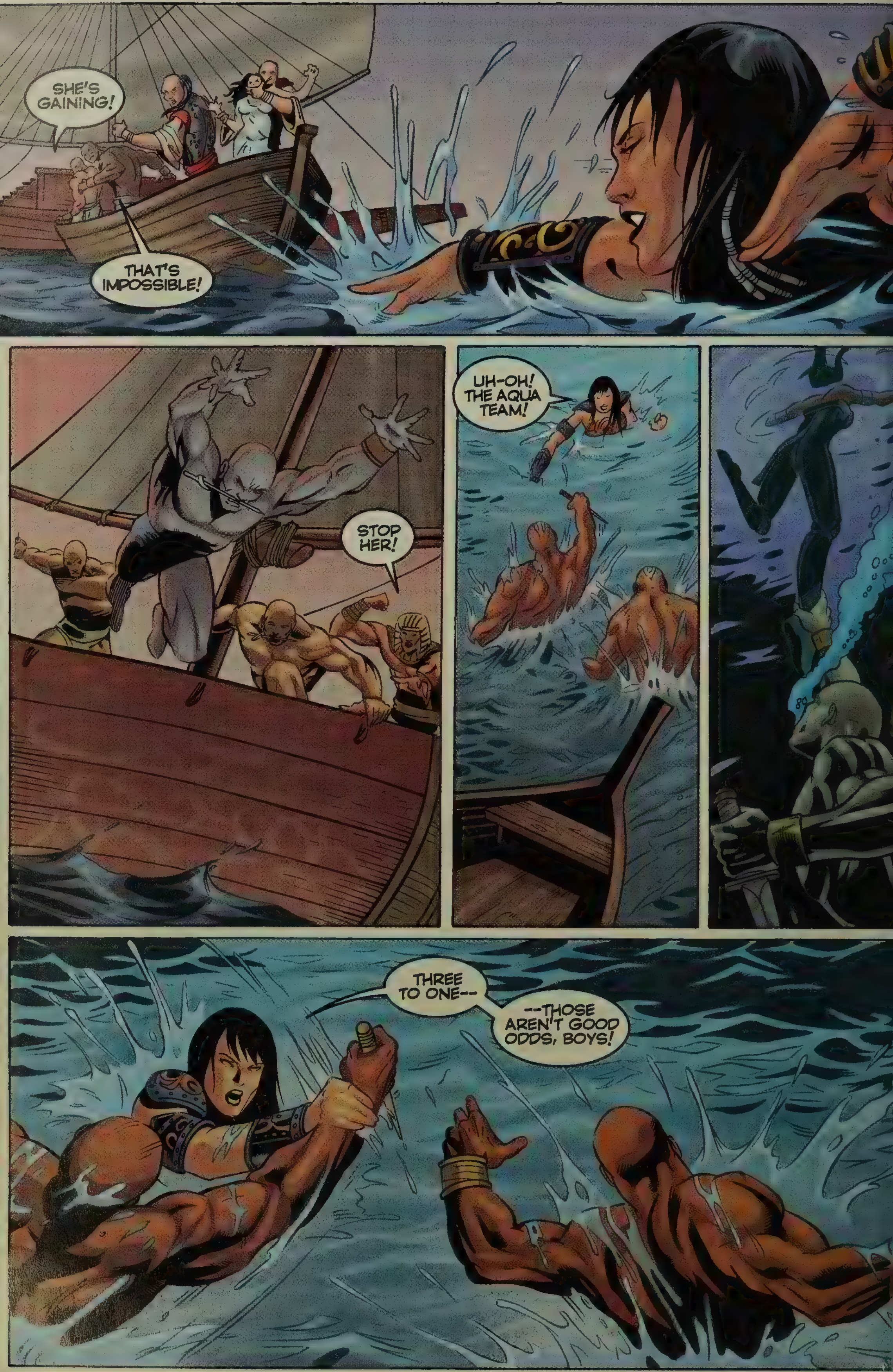

WHAT'S TERRIBLE IS PEOPLE WHO KEEP SLAVES IN THE FIRST PLACE!
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! HER LIFE IS IN GREAT DANGER!
YOU SAW THOSE OTHERS--THE EGYPTIANS...!
RELAX. SHE'S SAFE-- SHE'S HERE.
HERE? THANK THE STARS!
LISTEN, CLAUDIUS-- IT'S OBVIOUS YOU KNOW A LOT MORE ABOUT THIS THAN YOU'RE TELLING.
IT MUST BE OBVIOUS TO YOU THAT WE'RE ON FATIMA'S SIDE.
IT WOULD BE A REAL BIG HELP IF YOU CAME CLEAN.
I...
ALL RIGHT.
HER NAME IS PHILOMENA.
SHE IS THE DAUGHTER OF ONE OF THE NOBLE HOUSES OF ALEXANDRIA-- OLD FRIENDS.

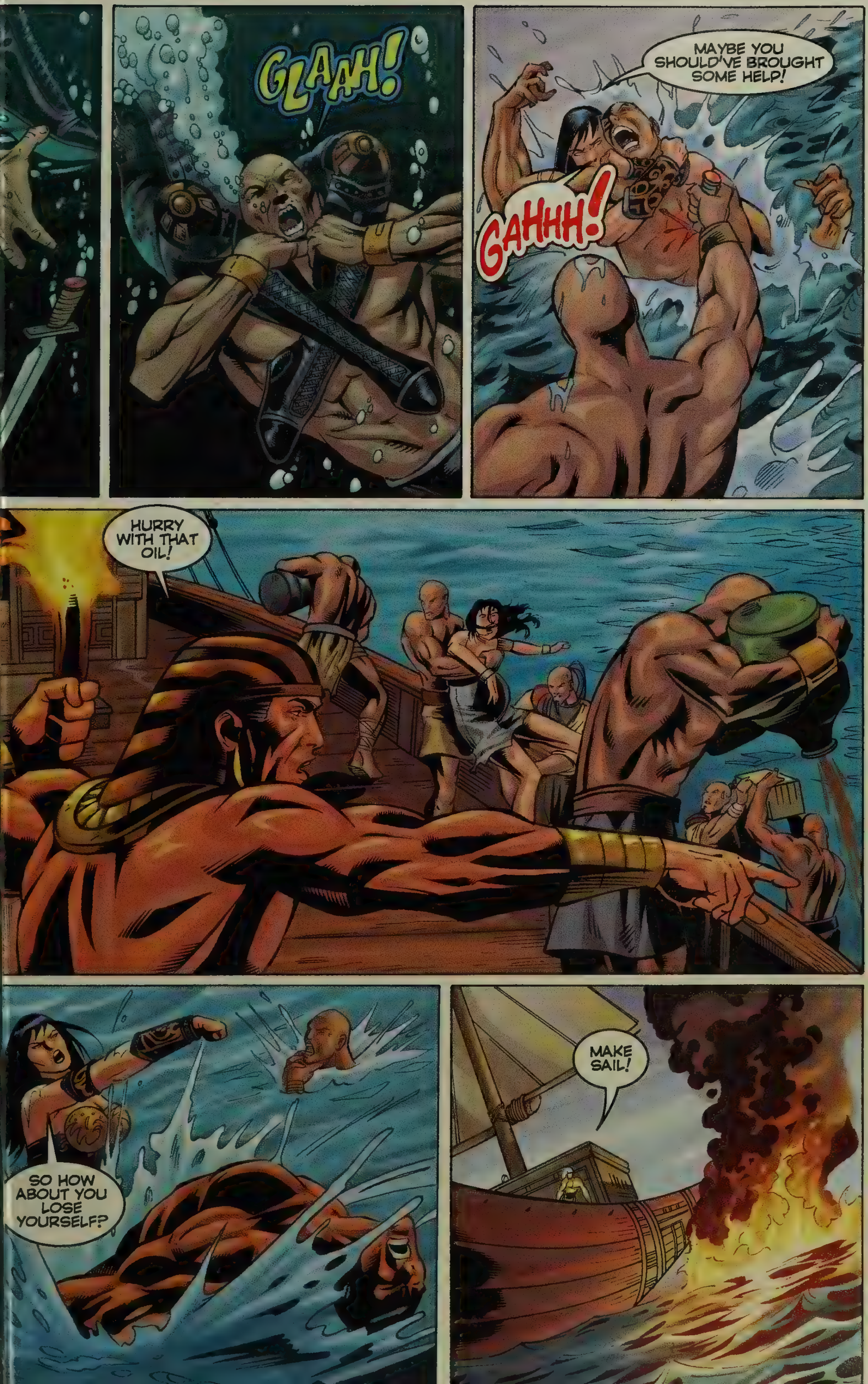

A FEW DAYS AGO, I RECEIVED A LETTER FROM THEM --PHILOMENA WAS WITH CHILD, AND HER LIFE WAS IN GREAT DANGER.
WHY, THE LETTER DID NOT SPECIFY, THOUGH IT WAS CLEAR THE TWO WERE CONNECTED.
SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE BABY...
THEY HAD COME TOGETHER OUT OF EGYPT. BUT THERE WERE EYES EVERYWHERE. MY FRIENDS HIT ON A DESPERATE PLOY...
NO ONE WOULD THINK OF LOOKING FOR HER AMONG A CONSIGNMENT OF SLAVES.
THEY MUST HAVE BEEN DESPERATE.
HMPH!

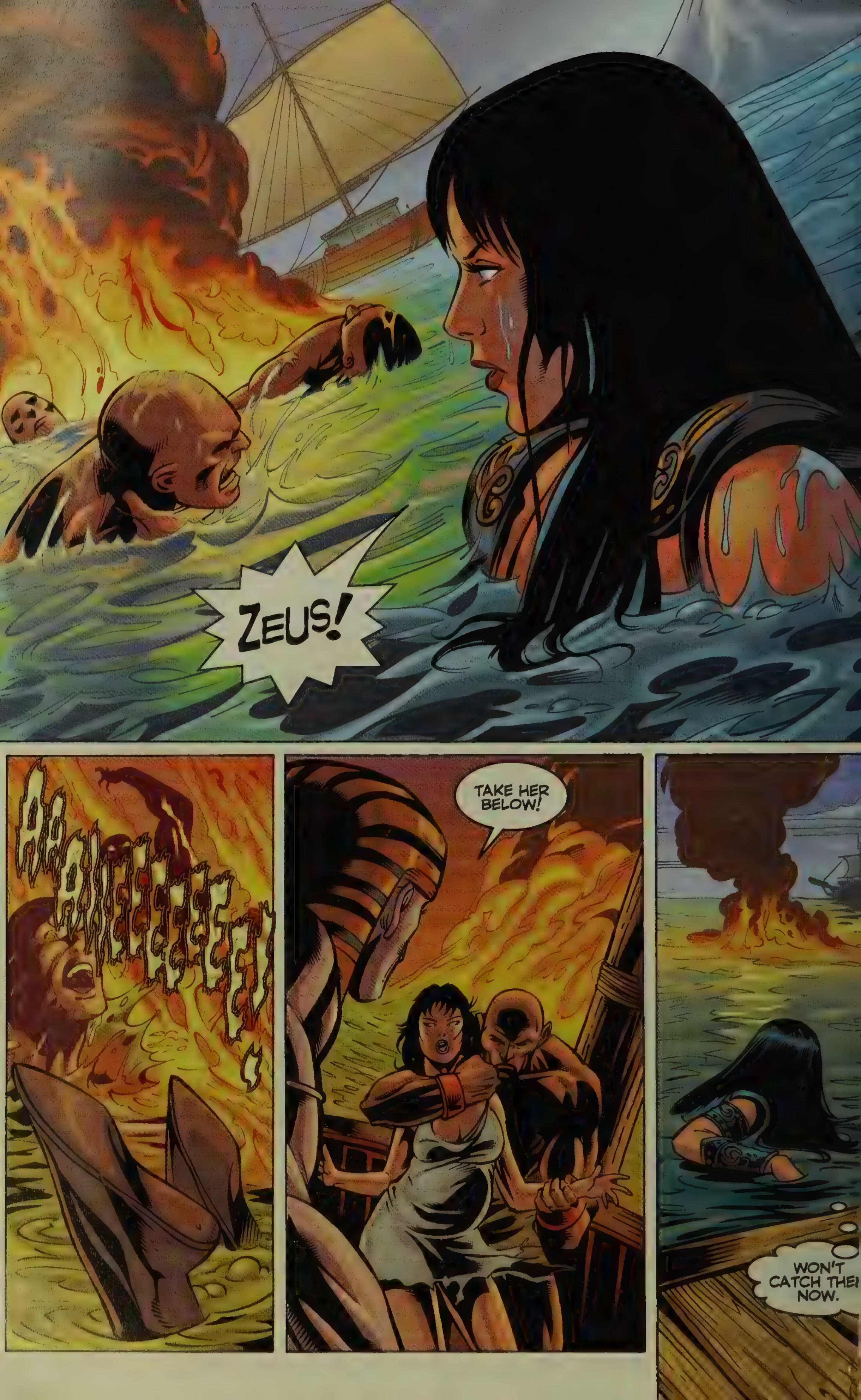

THE INTENTION WAS THAT I SHOULD BE AT THE OTHER END TO BUY HER AND LOOK AFTER HER UNTIL IT WAS SAFE TO RETURN.
WH-WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
BUT SOMEHOW... SOMEBODY FOUND OUT --THEY SENT THE WALKING CORPSE AFTER HER.
HELLLPPP!
?!
FIRE!

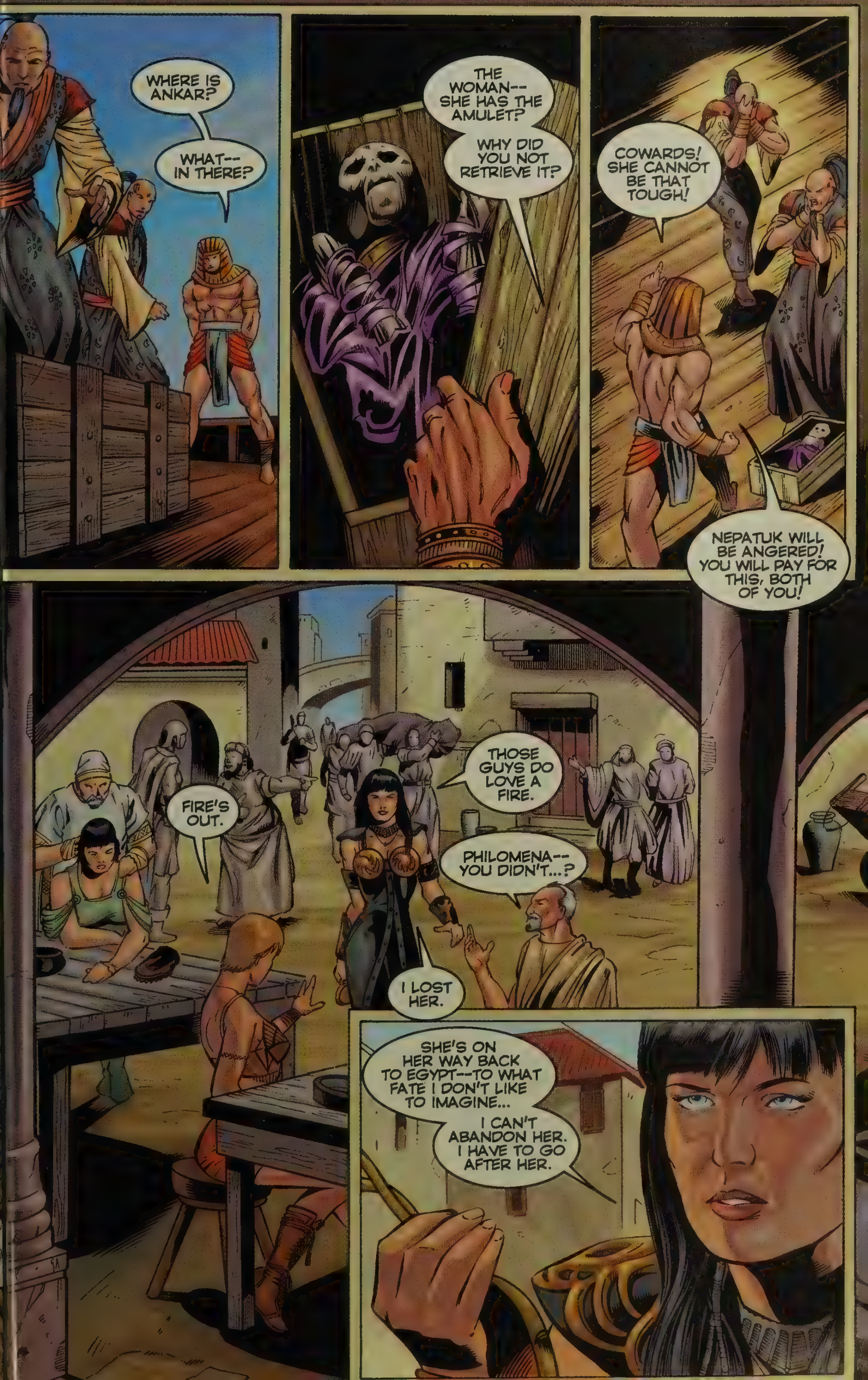

WATER! GET BUCKETS! HURRY!
CASSANDRA--
PHILOMENA...
THEY'VE GOT HER!

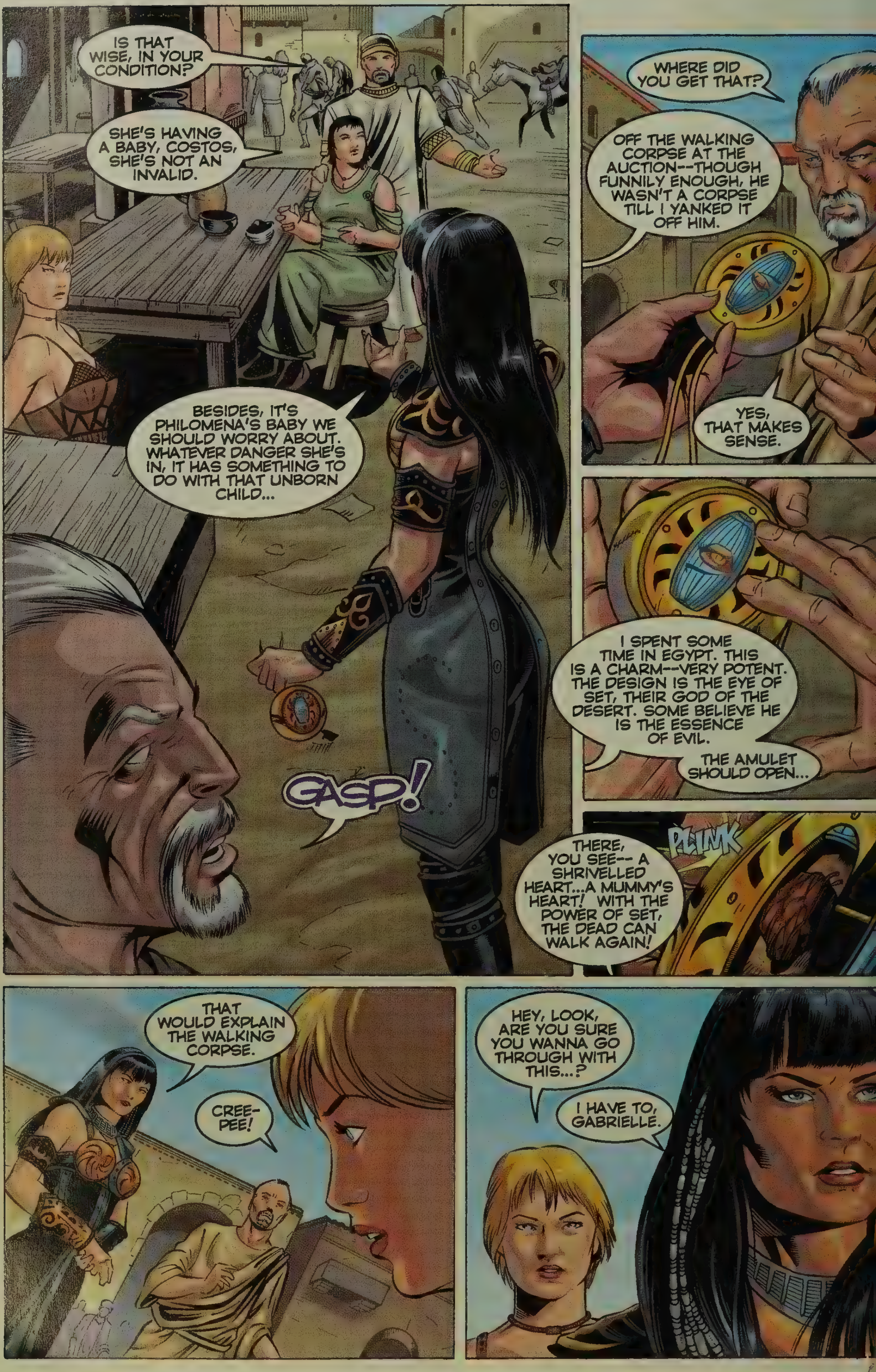

HELLLPPPP!
THERE SHE IS!
THOSE TWO MUSCLEHEADS FROM THE AUCTION -- THE WALKING CORPSE'S BUDDIES! FIGURED THEY MIGHT BE INVOLVED!
THUNK
HANG ON, PHILOMENA, I'M COMING!

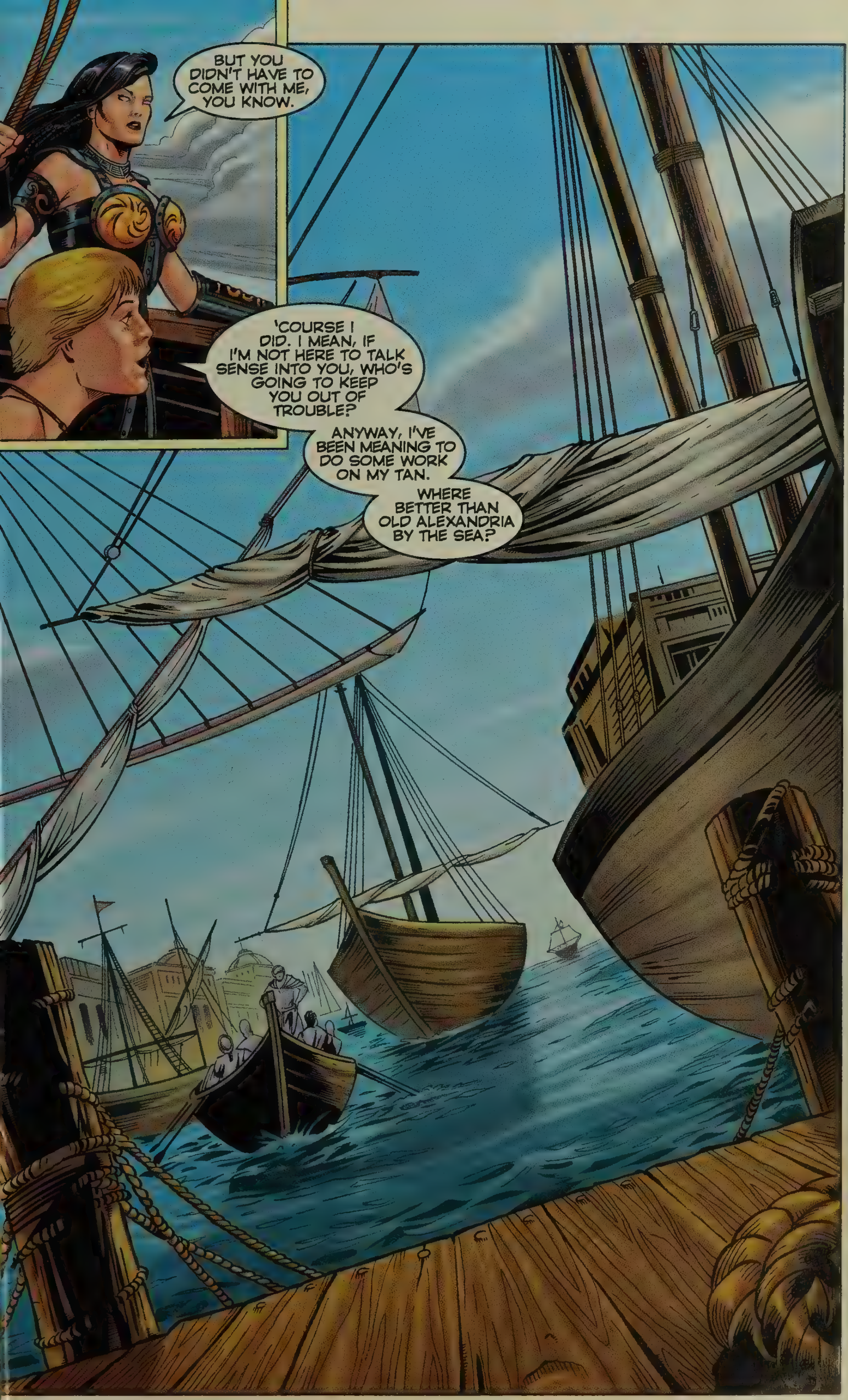

SHE'S GAINING!
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
STOP HER!
UH-OH! THE AQUA TEAM!
THREE TO ONE--
--THOSE AREN'T GOOD ODDS, BOYS!

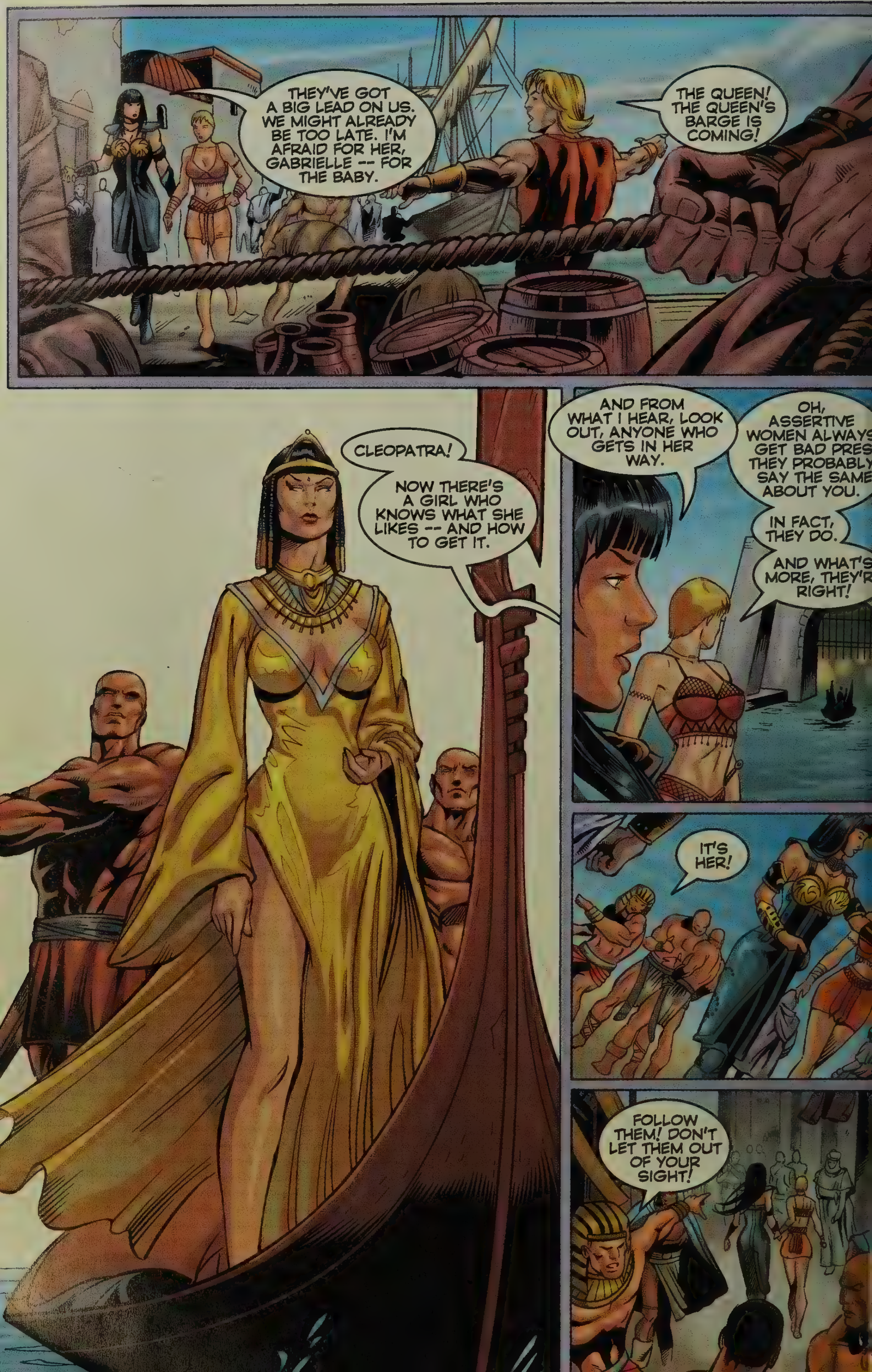

GLAAH!
MAYBE YOU SHOULD'VE BROUGHT SOME HELP!
GAHHH!
HURRY WITH THAT OIL!
SO HOW ABOUT YOU LOSE YOURSELF?
MAKE SAIL!

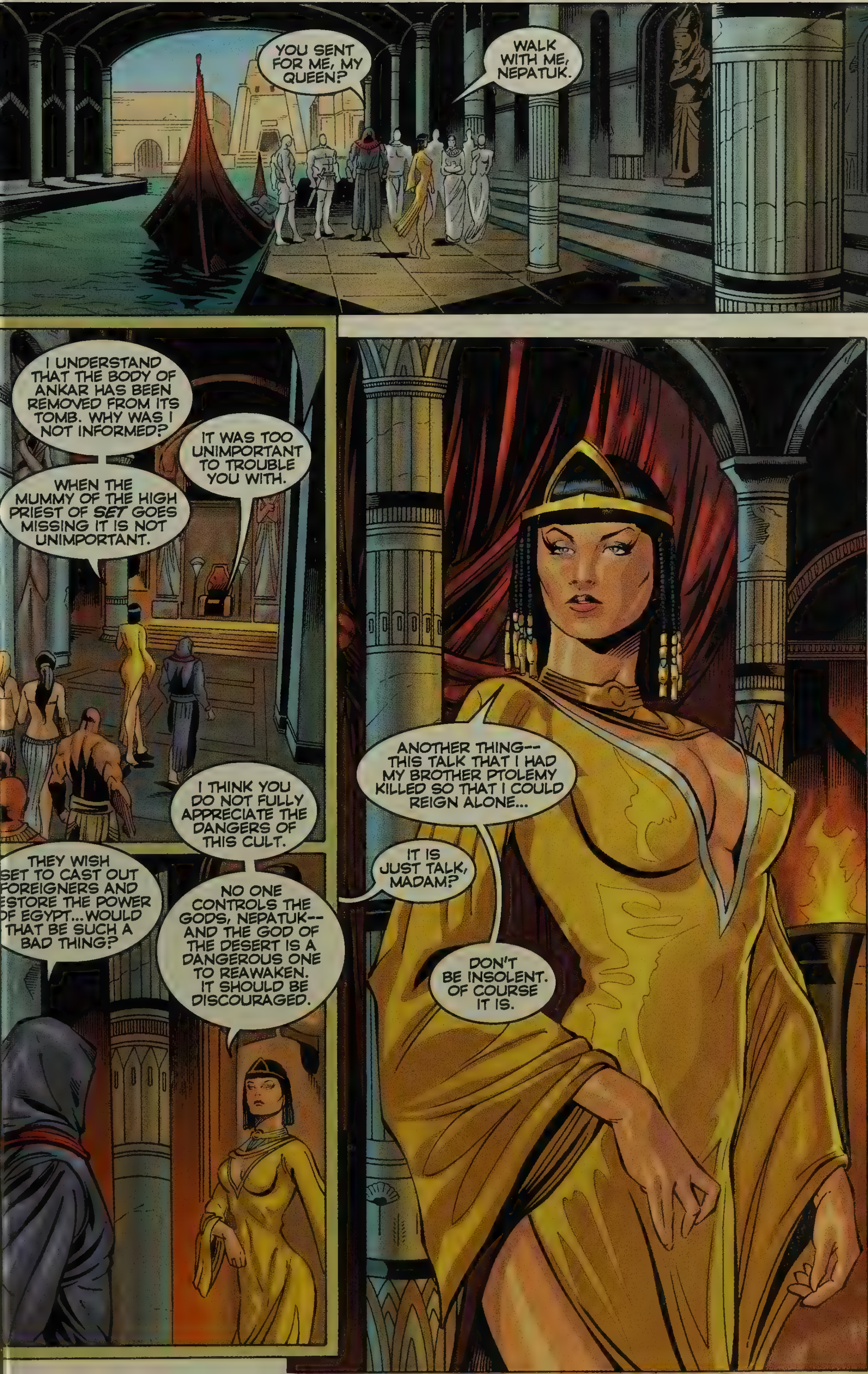

ZEUS!
AAAIIEEEEEE!
TAKE HER BELOW!
WON'T CATCH THE NOW.

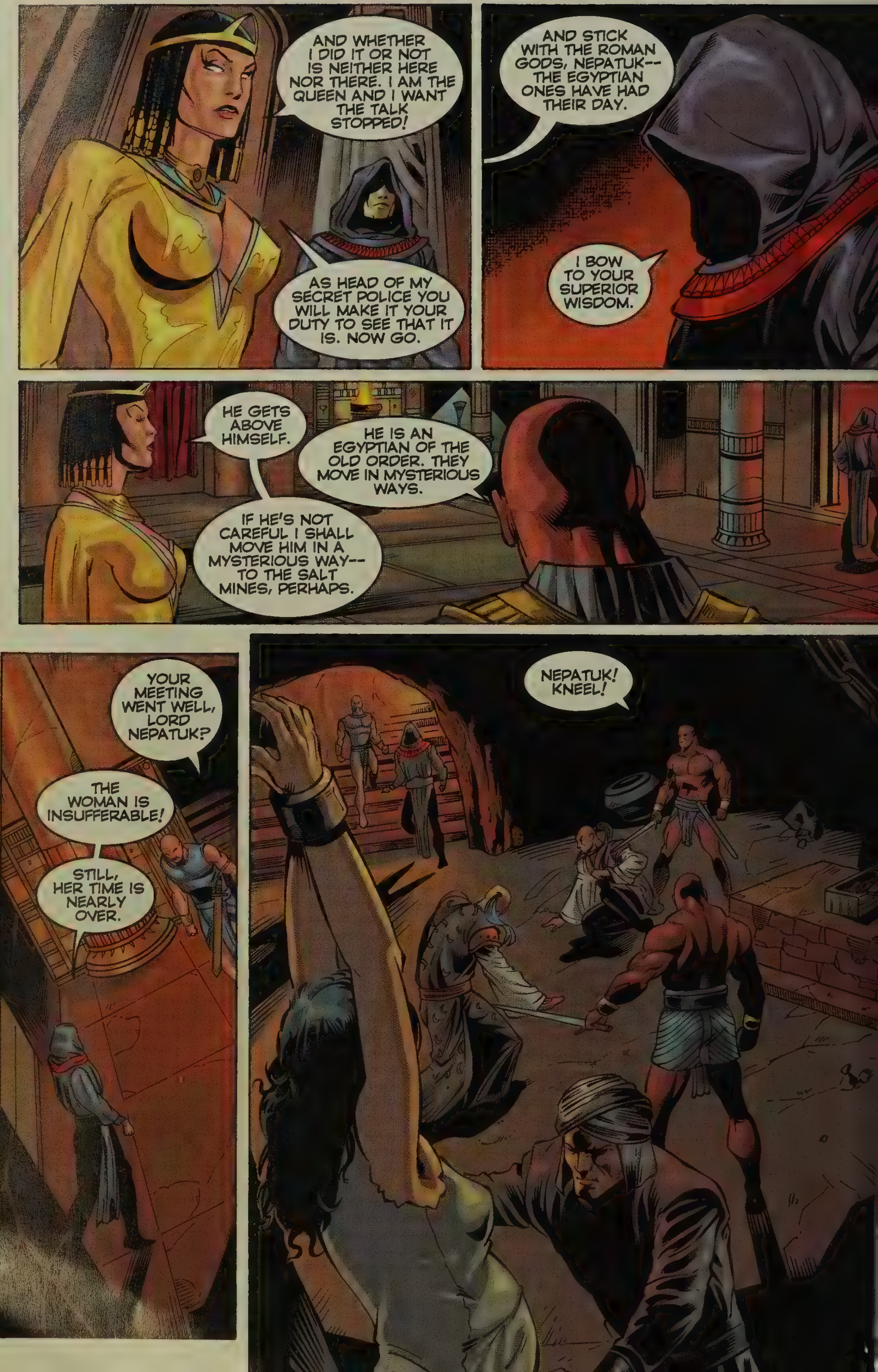

WHERE IS ANKAR?
WHAT-- IN THERE?
THE WOMAN-- SHE HAS THE AMULET?
WHY DID YOU NOT RETRIEVE IT?
COWARDS! SHE CANNOT BE THAT TOUGH!
NEPATUK WILL BE ANGERED! YOU WILL PAY FOR THIS, BOTH OF YOU!
FIRE'S OUT.
THOSE GUYS DO LOVE A FIRE.
PHILOMENA-- YOU DIDN'T...?
I LOST HER.
SHE'S ON HER WAY BACK TO EGYPT--TO WHAT FATE I DON'T LIKE TO IMAGINE...
I CAN'T ABANDON HER. I HAVE TO GO AFTER HER.

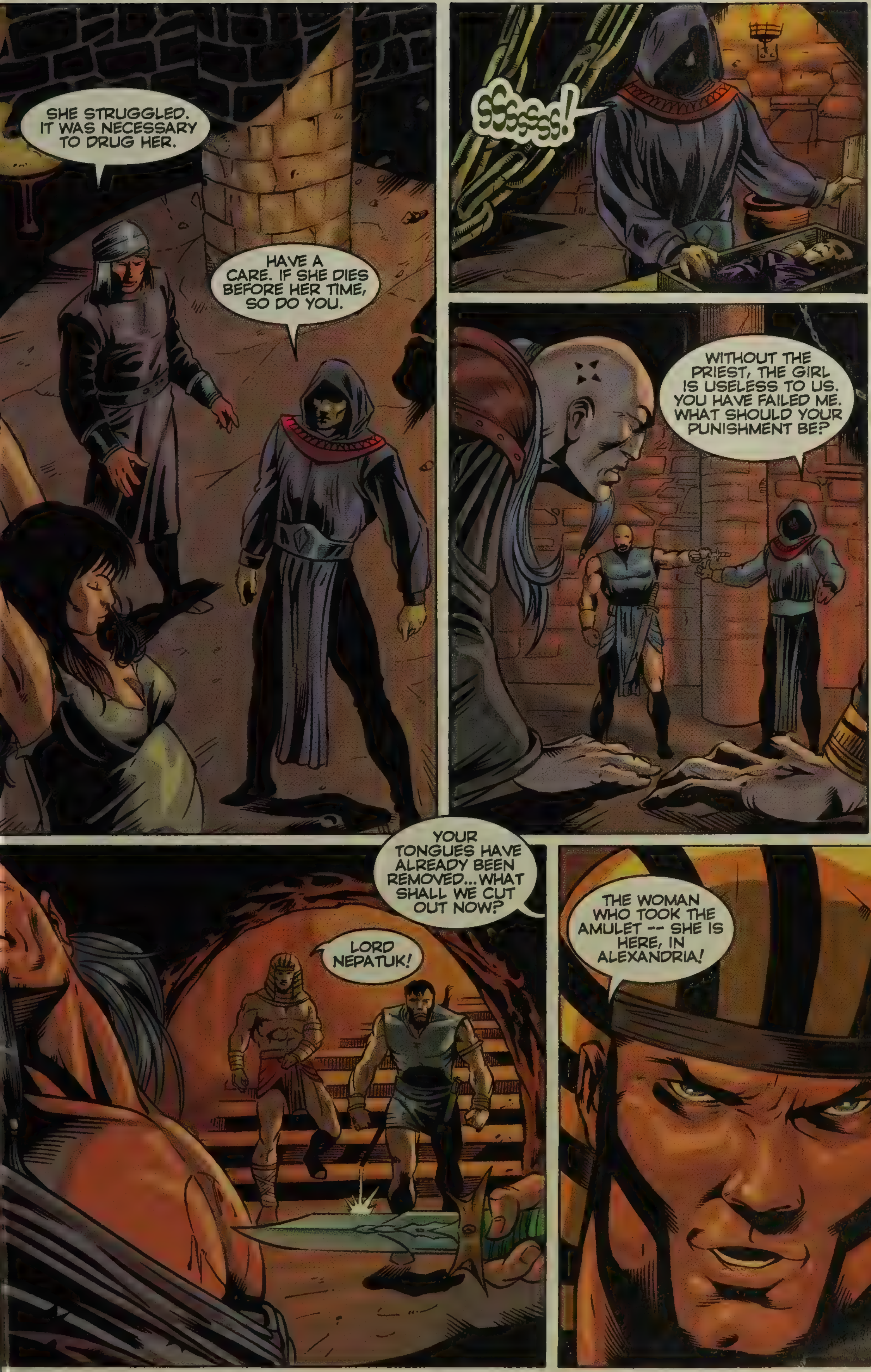

IS THAT WISE, IN YOUR CONDITION?
SHE'S HAVING A BABY, COSTOS, SHE'S NOT AN INVALID.
BESIDES, IT'S PHILOMENA'S BABY WE SHOULD WORRY ABOUT. WHATEVER DANGER SHE'S IN, IT HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH THAT UNBORN CHILD...
GASP!
WHERE DID YOU GET THAT?
OFF THE WALKING CORPSE AT THE AUCTION--THOUGH FUNNILY ENOUGH, HE WASN'T A CORPSE TILL I YANKED IT OFF HIM.
YES, THAT MAKES SENSE.
I SPENT SOME TIME IN EGYPT. THIS IS A CHARM--VERY POTENT. THE DESIGN IS THE EYE OF SET, THEIR GOD OF THE DESERT. SOME BELIEVE HE IS THE ESSENCE OF EVIL.
THE AMULET SHOULD OPEN...
PLINK
THERE, YOU SEE-- A SHRIVELLED HEART...A MUMMY'S HEART! WITH THE POWER OF SET, THE DEAD CAN WALK AGAIN!
THAT WOULD EXPLAIN THE WALKING CORPSE.
CREE-PEE!
HEY, LOOK, ARE YOU SURE YOU WANNA GO THROUGH WITH THIS...?
I HAVE TO, GABRIELLE.

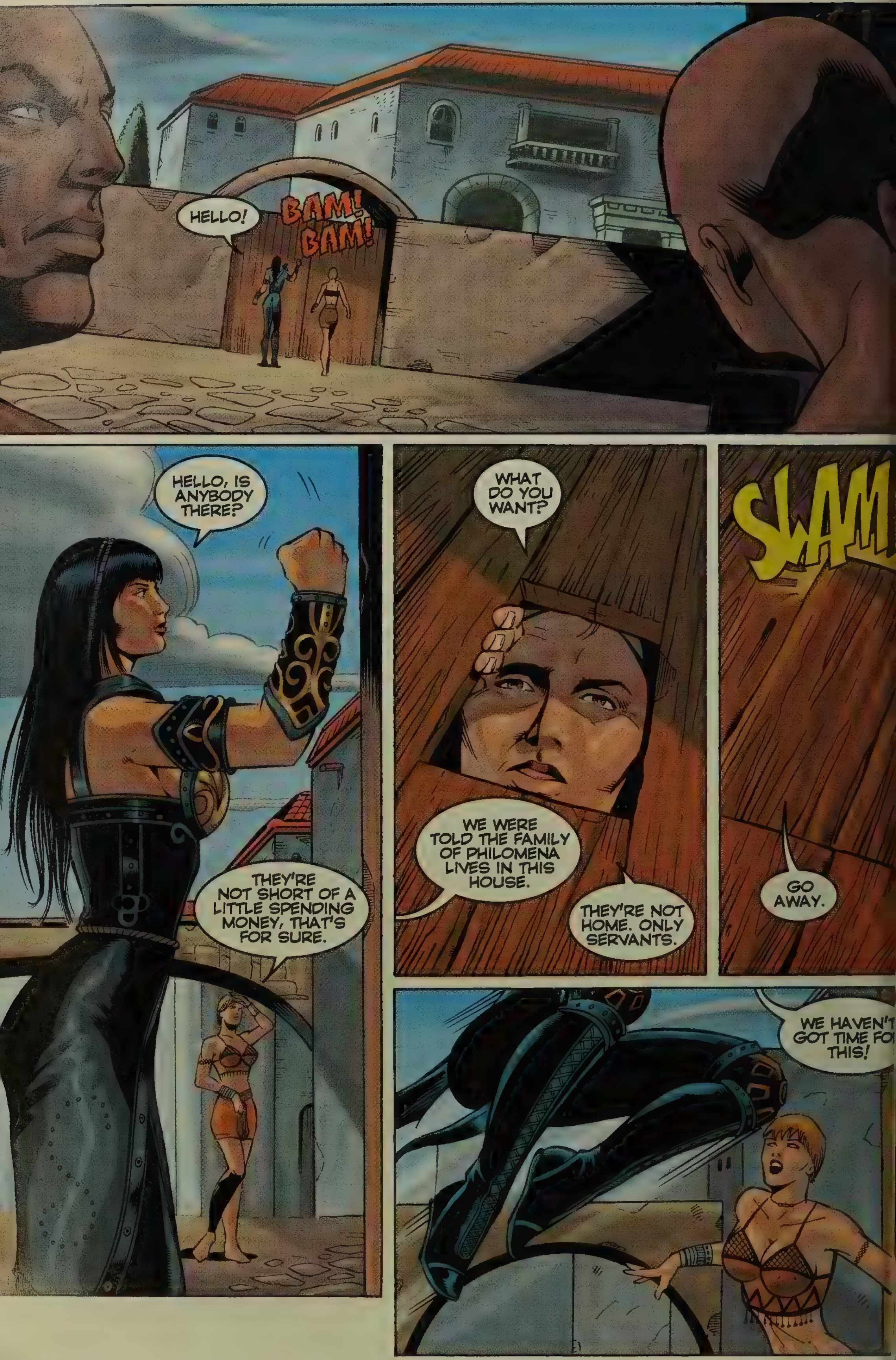

BUT YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO COME WITH ME, YOU KNOW.
'COURSE I DID. I MEAN, IF I'M NOT HERE TO TALK SENSE INTO YOU, WHO'S GOING TO KEEP YOU OUT OF TROUBLE?
ANYWAY, I'VE BEEN MEANING TO DO SOME WORK ON MY TAN.
WHERE BETTER THAN OLD ALEXANDRIA BY THE SEA?

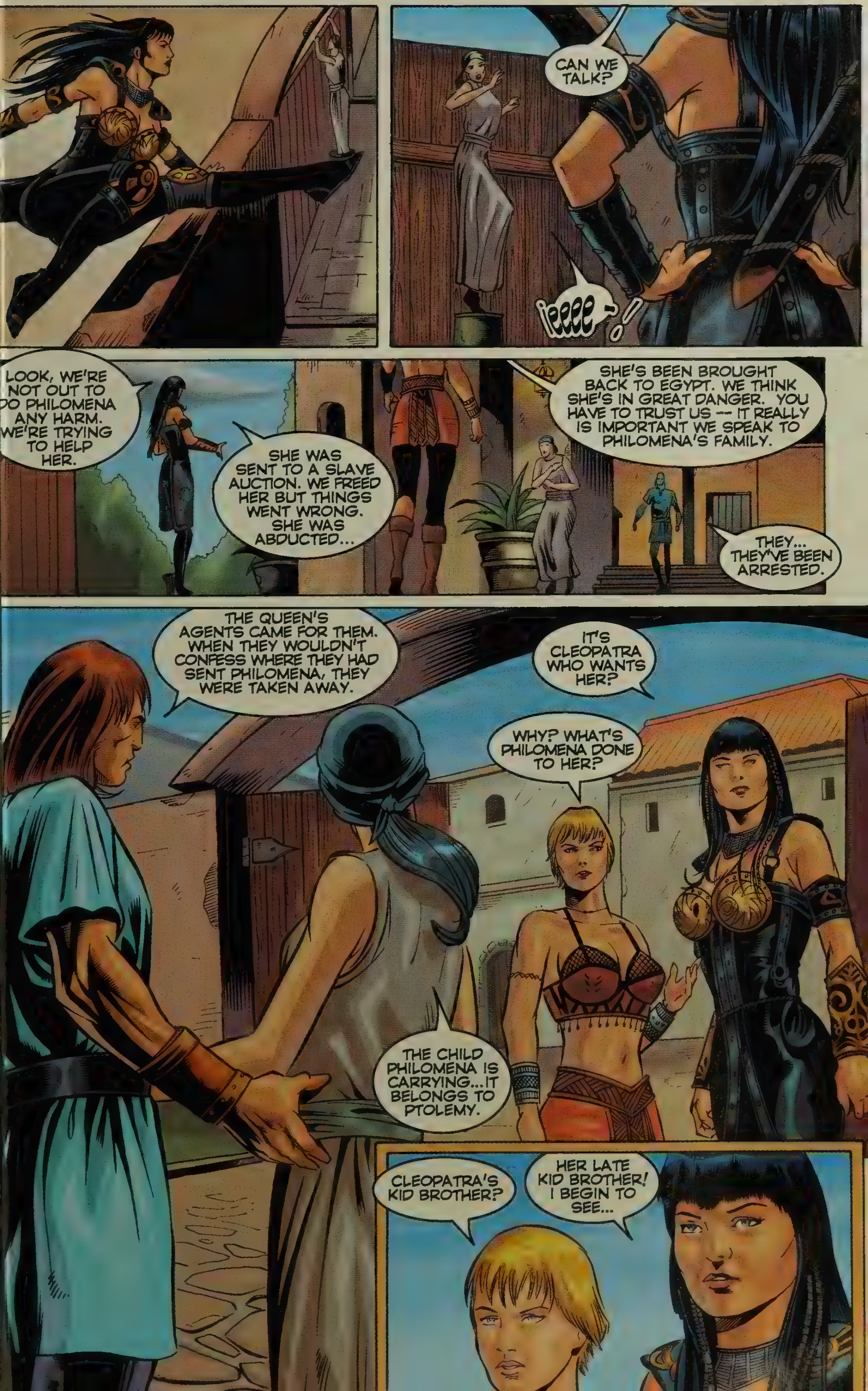

THEY'VE GOT A BIG LEAD ON US. WE MIGHT ALREADY BE TOO LATE. I'M AFRAID FOR HER, GABRIELLE -- FOR THE BABY.
THE QUEEN! THE QUEEN'S BARGE IS COMING!
CLEOPATRA!
NOW THERE'S A GIRL WHO KNOWS WHAT SHE LIKES -- AND HOW TO GET IT.
AND FROM WHAT I HEAR, LOOK OUT, ANYONE WHO GETS IN HER WAY.
OH, ASSERTIVE WOMEN ALWAYS GET BAD PRES THEY PROBABLY SAY THE SAME ABOUT YOU.
IN FACT, THEY DO.
AND WHAT'S MORE, THEY'R RIGHT!
IT'S HER!
FOLLOW THEM! DON'T LET THEM OUT OF YOUR SIGHT!

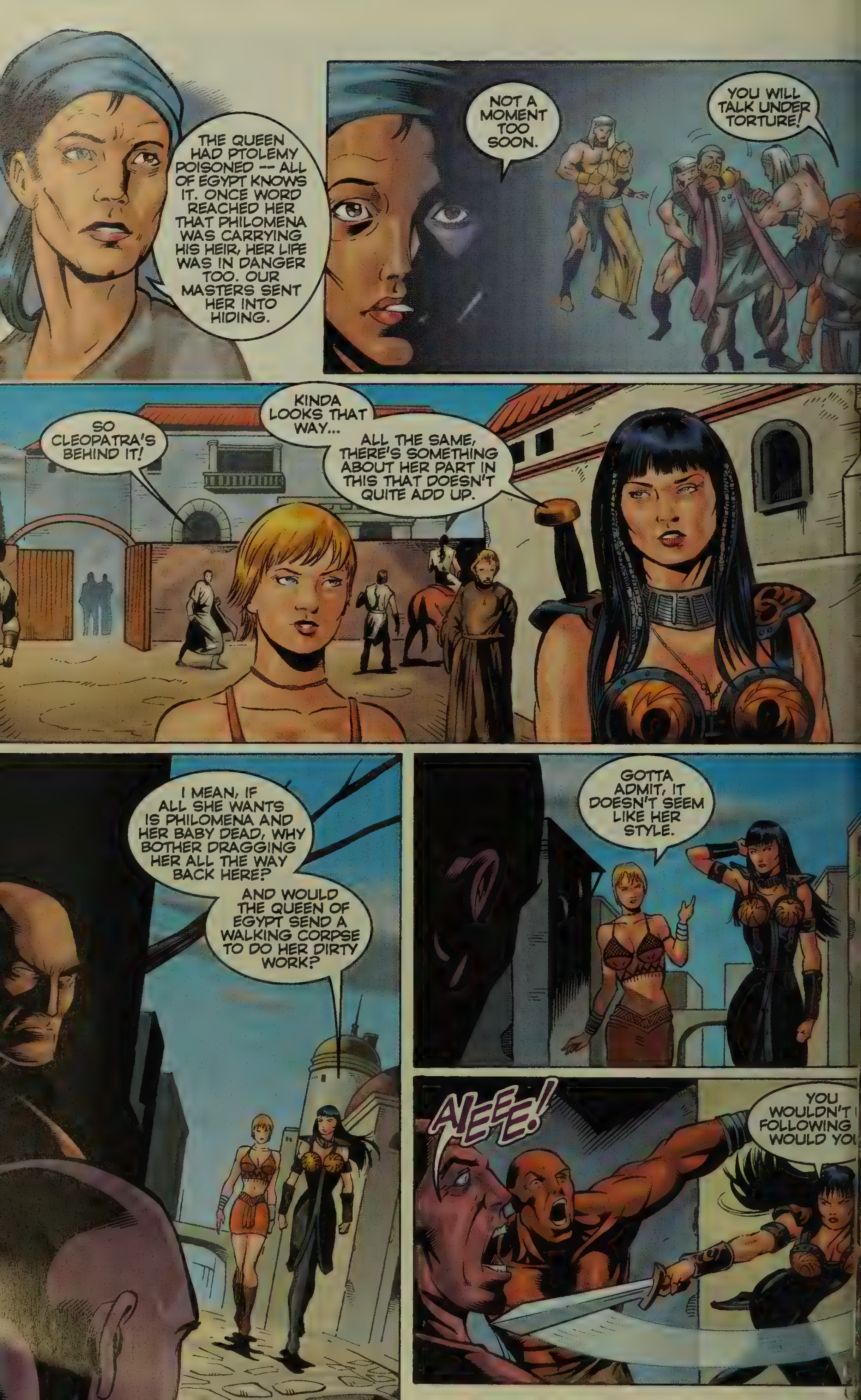

YOU SENT FOR ME, MY QUEEN?
WALK WITH ME, NEPATUK.
I UNDERSTAND THAT THE BODY OF ANKAR HAS BEEN REMOVED FROM ITS TOMB. WHY WAS I NOT INFORMED?
IT WAS TOO UNIMPORTANT TO TROUBLE YOU WITH.
WHEN THE MUMMY OF THE HIGH PRIEST OF *SET* GOES MISSING IT IS NOT UNIMPORTANT.
I THINK YOU DO NOT FULLY APPRECIATE THE DANGERS OF THIS CULT.
THEY WISH SET TO CAST OUT FOREIGNERS AND ESTORE THE POWER F EGYPT...WOULD THAT BE SUCH A BAD THING?
NO ONE CONTROLS THE GODS, NEPATUK-- AND THE GOD OF THE DESERT IS A DANGEROUS ONE TO REAWAKEN. IT SHOULD BE DISCOURAGED.
ANOTHER THING-- THIS TALK THAT I HAD MY BROTHER PTOLEMY KILLED SO THAT I COULD REIGN ALONE...
IT IS JUST TALK, MADAM?
DON'T BE INSOLENT. OF COURSE IT IS.

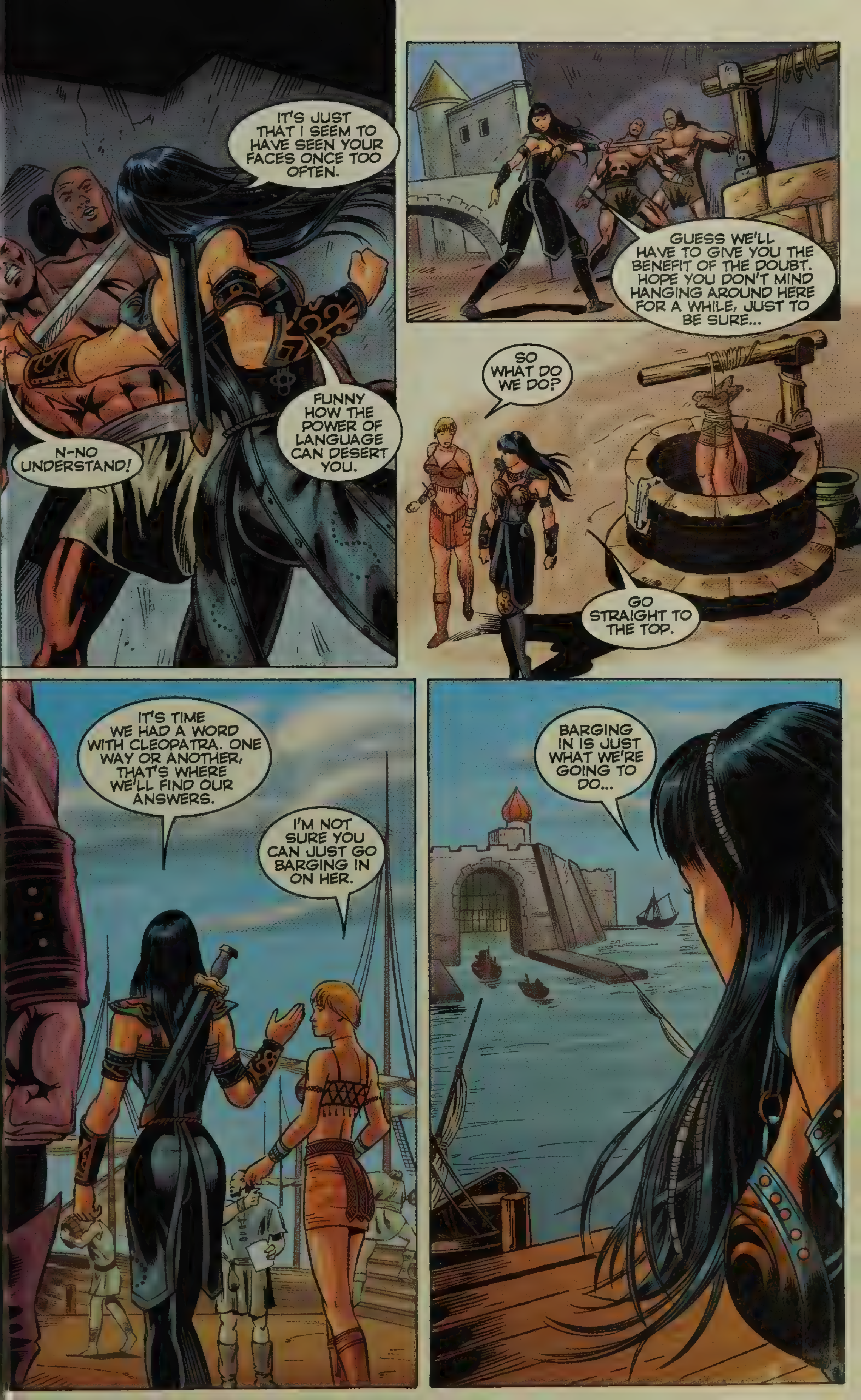

AND WHETHER I DID IT OR NOT IS NEITHER HERE NOR THERE. I AM THE QUEEN AND I WANT THE TALK STOPPED!
AS HEAD OF MY SECRET POLICE YOU WILL MAKE IT YOUR DUTY TO SEE THAT IT IS. NOW GO.
AND STICK WITH THE ROMAN GODS, NEPATUK-- THE EGYPTIAN ONES HAVE HAD THEIR DAY.
I BOW TO YOUR SUPERIOR WISDOM.
HE GETS ABOVE HIMSELF.
HE IS AN EGYPTIAN OF THE OLD ORDER. THEY MOVE IN MYSTERIOUS WAYS.
IF HE'S NOT CAREFUL I SHALL MOVE HIM IN A MYSTERIOUS WAY-- TO THE SALT MINES, PERHAPS.
YOUR MEETING WENT WELL, LORD NEPATUK?
THE WOMAN IS INSUFFERABLE!
STILL, HER TIME IS NEARLY OVER.
NEPATUK! KNEEL!

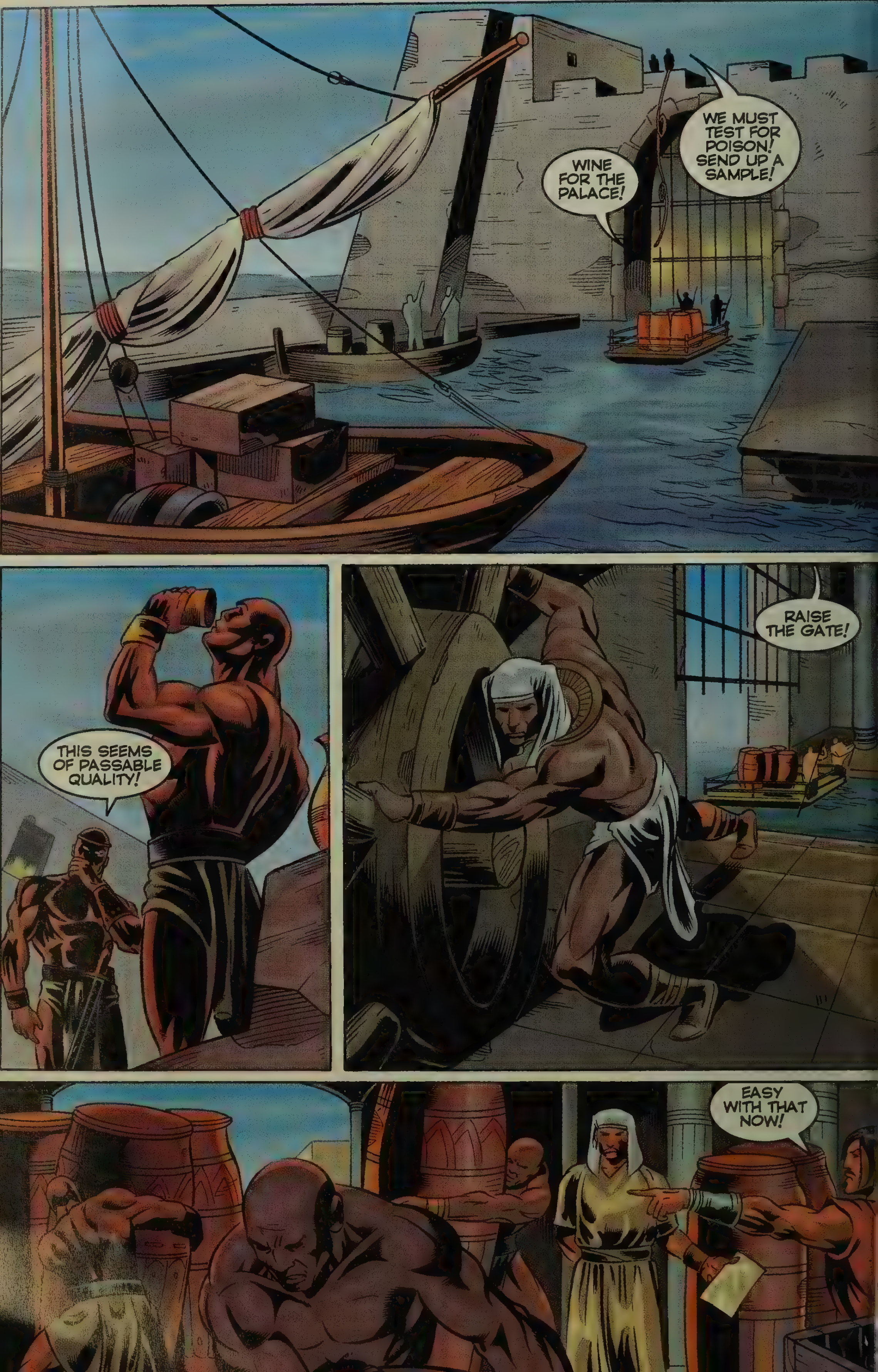

SHE STRUGGLED. IT WAS NECESSARY TO DRUG HER.
HAVE A CARE. IF SHE DIES BEFORE HER TIME, SO DO YOU.
SSSSSS!
WITHOUT THE PRIEST, THE GIRL IS USELESS TO US. YOU HAVE FAILED ME. WHAT SHOULD YOUR PUNISHMENT BE?
YOUR TONGUES HAVE ALREADY BEEN REMOVED...WHAT SHALL WE CUT OUT NOW?
LORD NEPATUK!
THE WOMAN WHO TOOK THE AMULET -- SHE IS HERE, IN ALEXANDRIA!

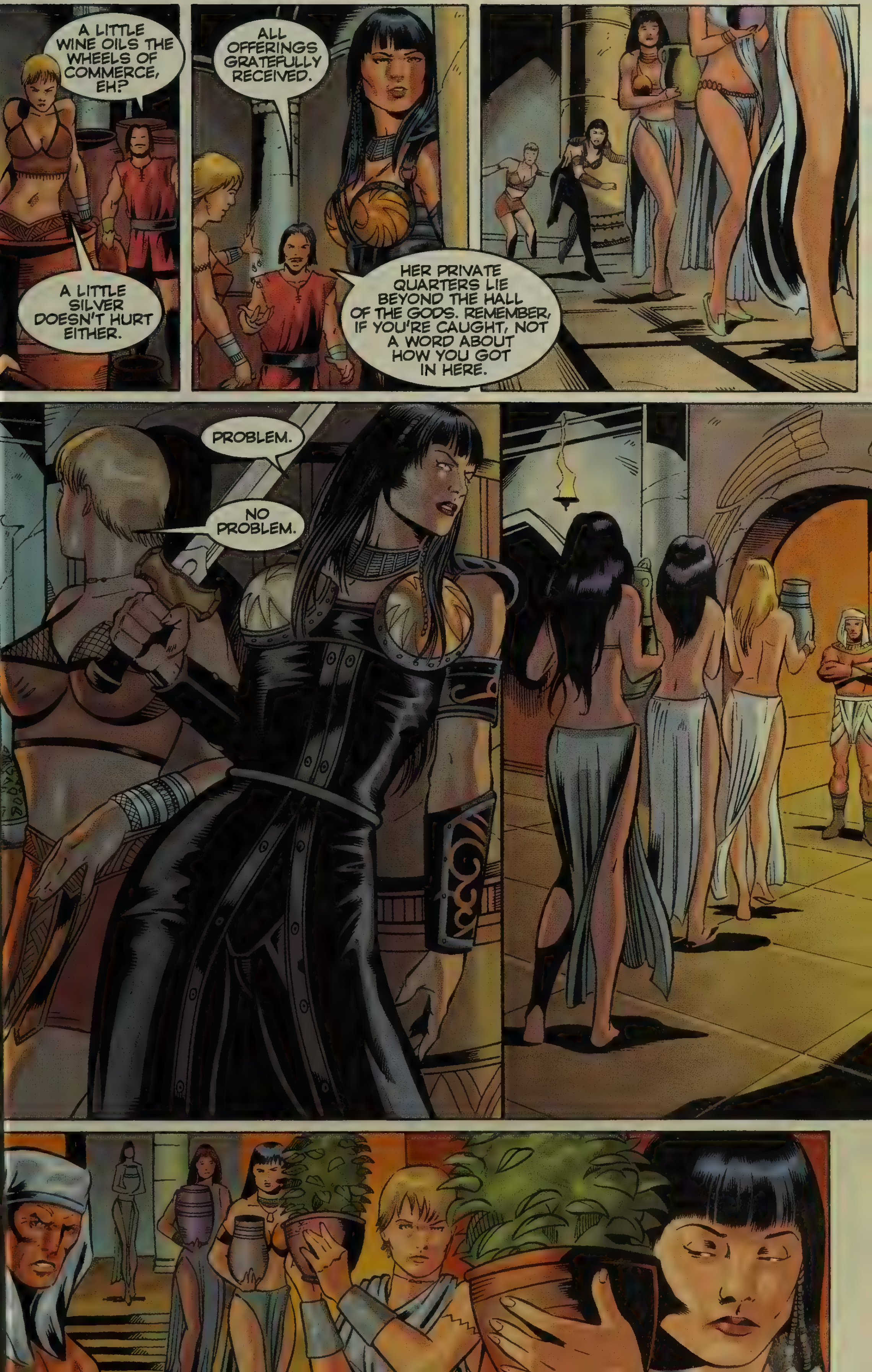

HELLO!
BAM! BAM!
HELLO, IS ANYBODY THERE?
THEY'RE NOT SHORT OF A LITTLE SPENDING MONEY, THAT'S FOR SURE.
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
WE WERE TOLD THE FAMILY OF PHILOMENA LIVES IN THIS HOUSE.
THEY'RE NOT HOME. ONLY SERVANTS.
SLAM
GO AWAY.
WE HAVEN'T GOT TIME FO THIS!

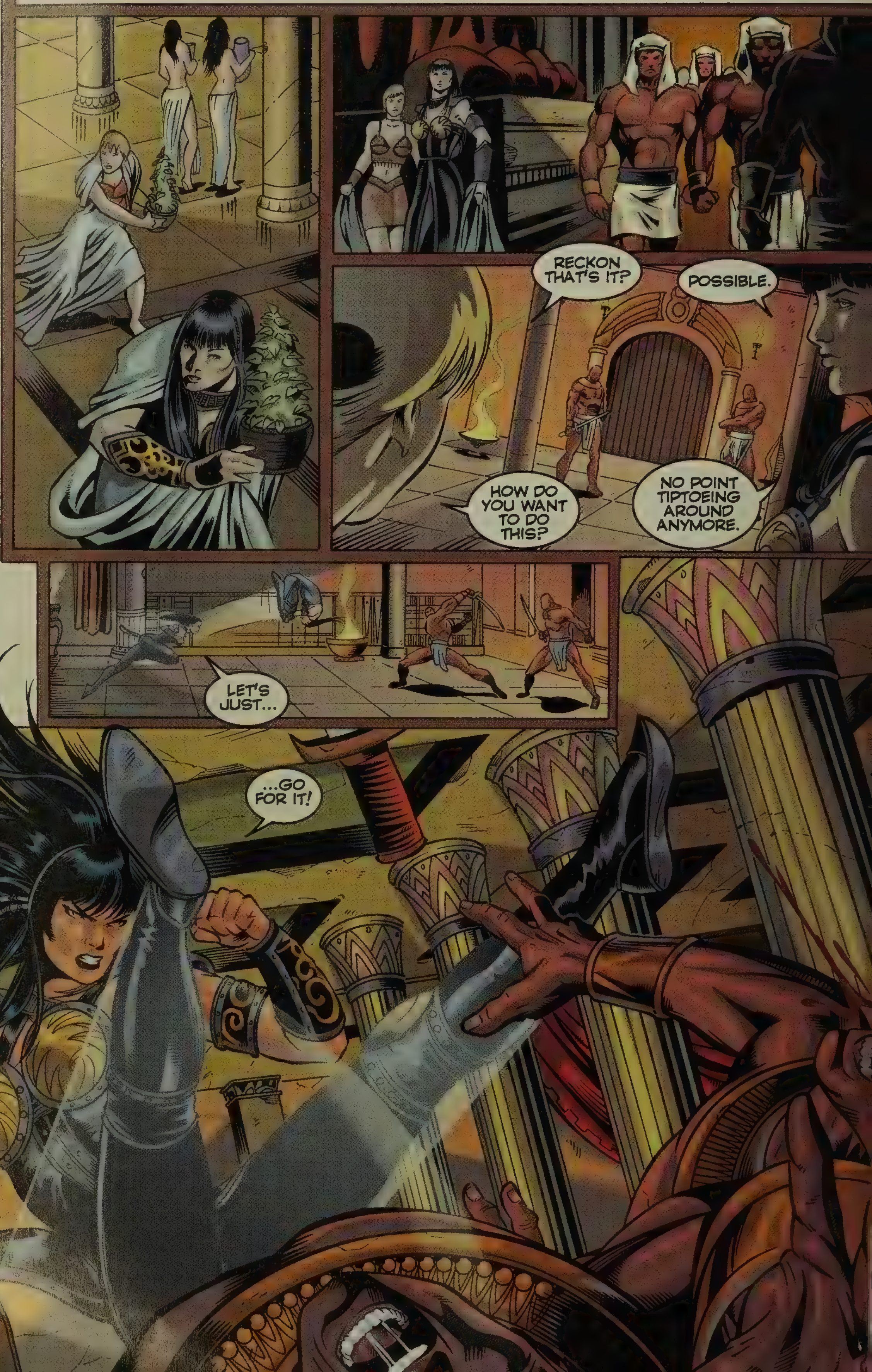

CAN WE TALK?
ieeee-!
LOOK, WE'RE NOT OUT TO DO PHILOMENA ANY HARM. WE'RE TRYING TO HELP HER.
SHE WAS SENT TO A SLAVE AUCTION. WE FREED HER BUT THINGS WENT WRONG. SHE WAS ABDUCTED...
SHE'S BEEN BROUGHT BACK TO EGYPT. WE THINK SHE'S IN GREAT DANGER. YOU HAVE TO TRUST US -- IT REALLY IS IMPORTANT WE SPEAK TO PHILOMENA'S FAMILY.
THEY... THEY'VE BEEN ARRESTED.
THE QUEEN'S AGENTS CAME FOR THEM. WHEN THEY WOULDN'T CONFESS WHERE THEY HAD SENT PHILOMENA, THEY WERE TAKEN AWAY.
IT'S CLEOPATRA WHO WANTS HER?
WHY? WHAT'S PHILOMENA DONE TO HER?
THE CHILD PHILOMENA IS CARRYING...IT BELONGS TO PTOLEMY.
CLEOPATRA'S KID BROTHER?
HER LATE KID BROTHER! I BEGIN TO SEE...

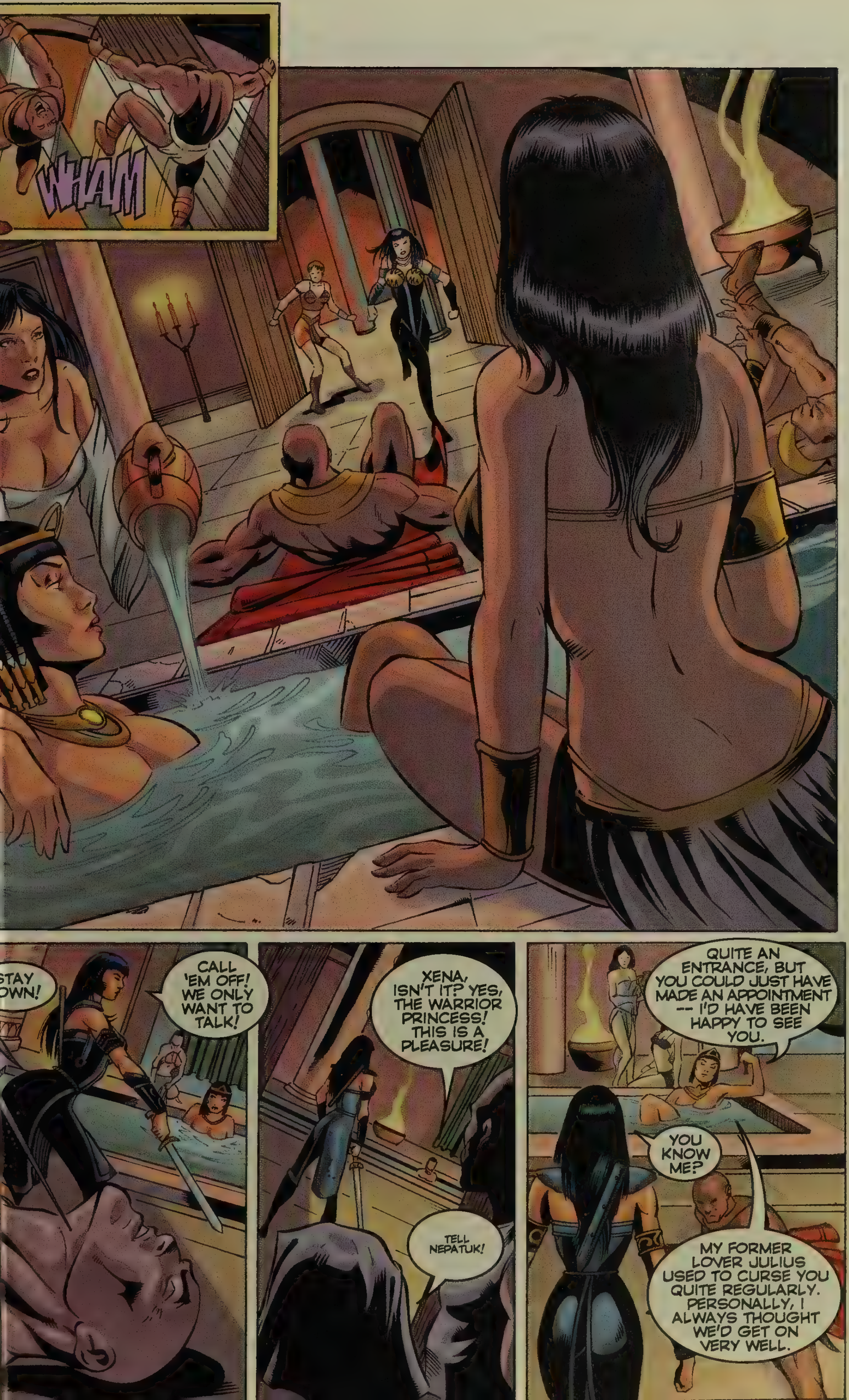

THE QUEEN HAD PTOLEMY POISONED -- ALL OF EGYPT KNOWS IT. ONCE WORD REACHED HER THAT PHILOMENA WAS CARRYING HIS HEIR, HER LIFE WAS IN DANGER TOO. OUR MASTERS SENT HER INTO HIDING.
NOT A MOMENT TOO SOON.
YOU WILL TALK UNDER TORTURE!
SO CLEOPATRA'S BEHIND IT!
KINDA LOOKS THAT WAY...
ALL THE SAME, THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT HER PART IN THIS THAT DOESN'T QUITE ADD UP.
I MEAN, IF ALL SHE WANTS IS PHILOMENA AND HER BABY DEAD, WHY BOTHER DRAGGING HER ALL THE WAY BACK HERE?
AND WOULD THE QUEEN OF EGYPT SEND A WALKING CORPSE TO DO HER DIRTY WORK?
GOTTA ADMIT, IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE HER STYLE.
AIEEEE!
YOU WOULDN'T FOLLOWING WOULD YO

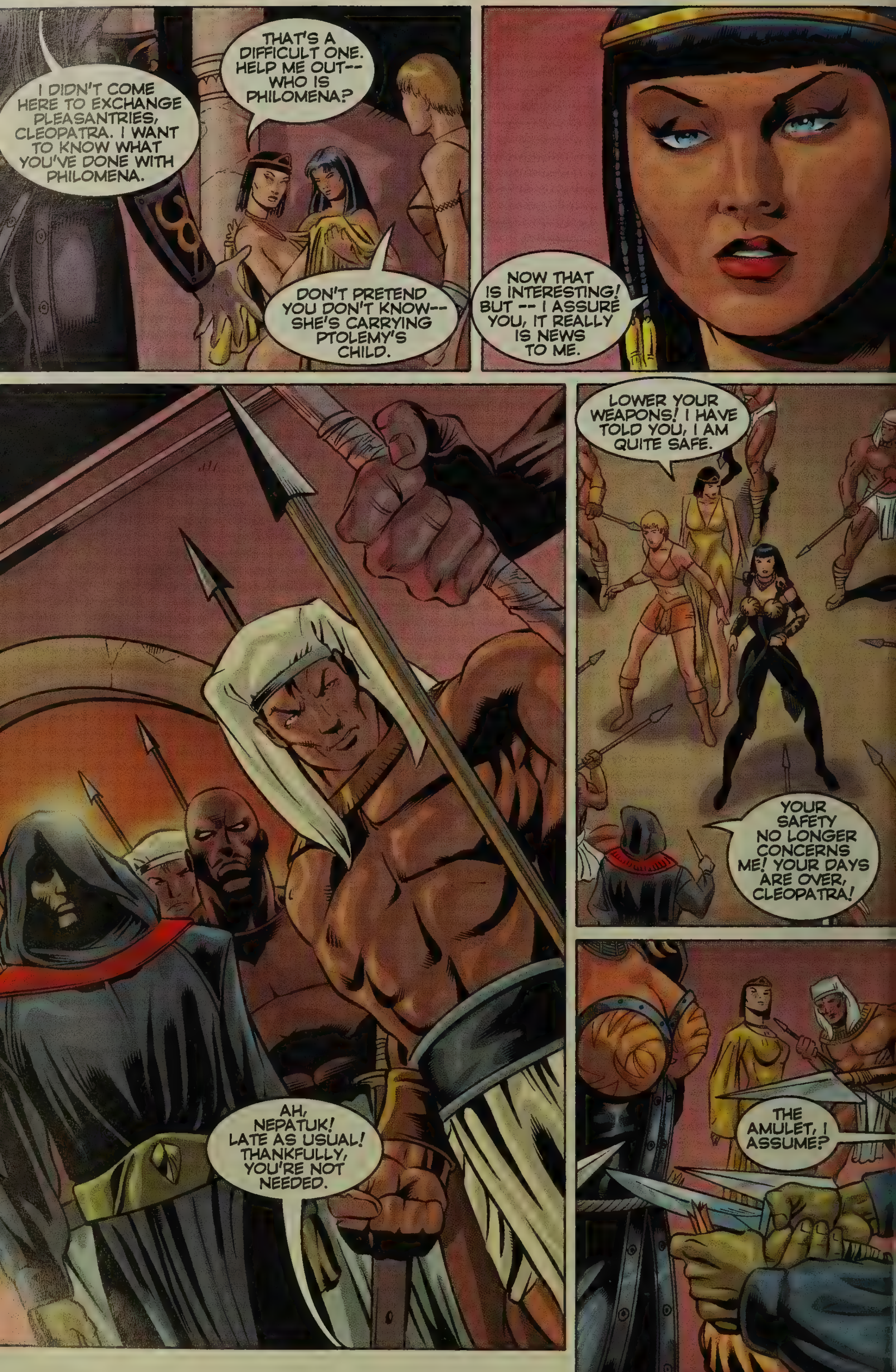

IT'S JUST THAT I SEEM TO HAVE SEEN YOUR FACES ONCE TOO OFTEN.
N-NO UNDERSTAND!
FUNNY HOW THE POWER OF LANGUAGE CAN DESERT YOU.
GUESS WE'LL HAVE TO GIVE YOU THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT. HOPE YOU DON'T MIND HANGING AROUND HERE FOR A WHILE, JUST TO BE SURE...
SO WHAT DO WE DO?
GO STRAIGHT TO THE TOP.
IT'S TIME WE HAD A WORD WITH CLEOPATRA. ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, THAT'S WHERE WE'LL FIND OUR ANSWERS.
I'M NOT SURE YOU CAN JUST GO BARGING IN ON HER.
BARGING IN IS JUST WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DO...

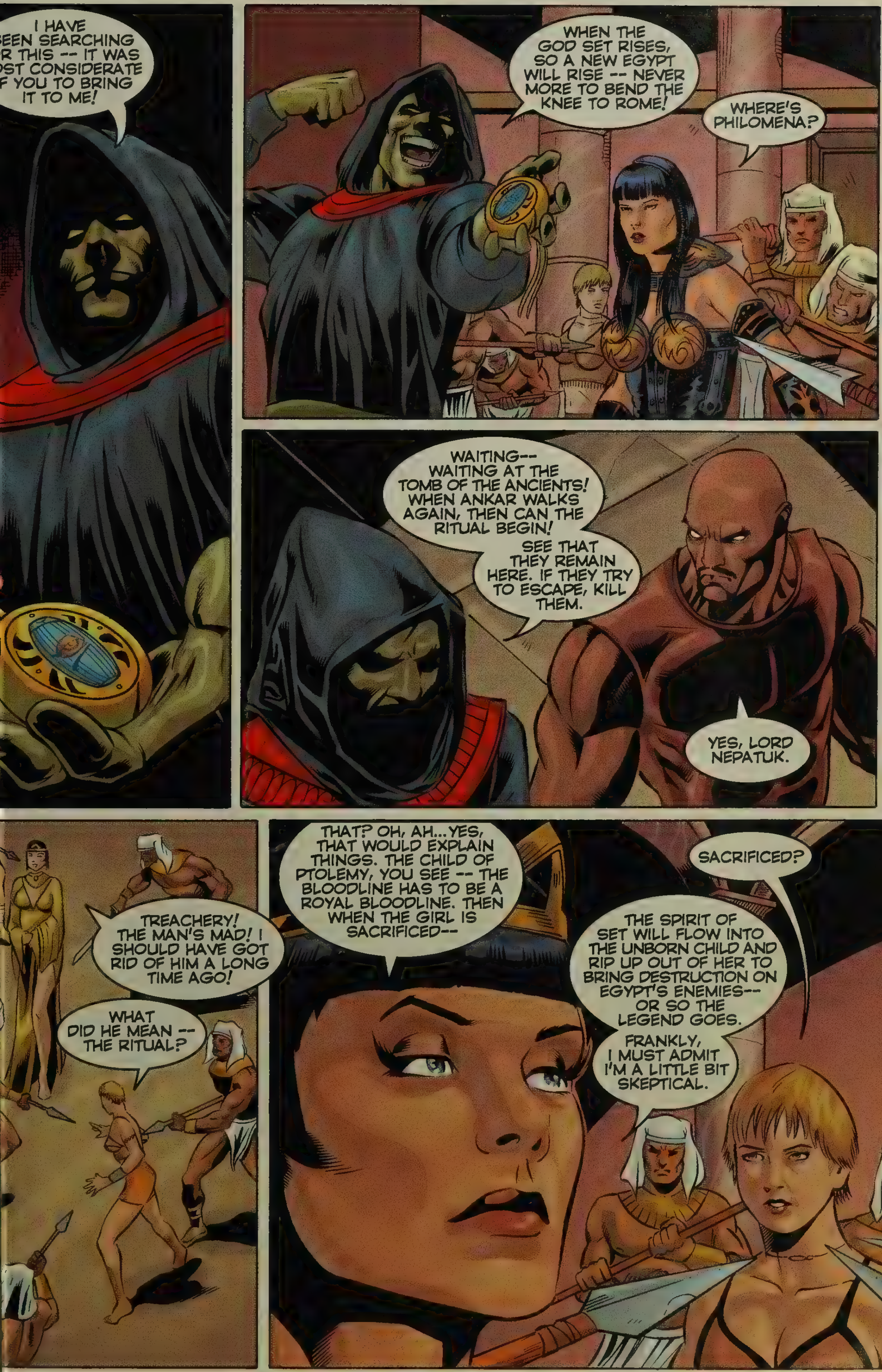

WINE FOR THE PALACE!
WE MUST TEST FOR POISON! SEND UP A SAMPLE!
THIS SEEMS OF PASSABLE QUALITY!
RAISE THE GATE!
EASY WITH THAT NOW!

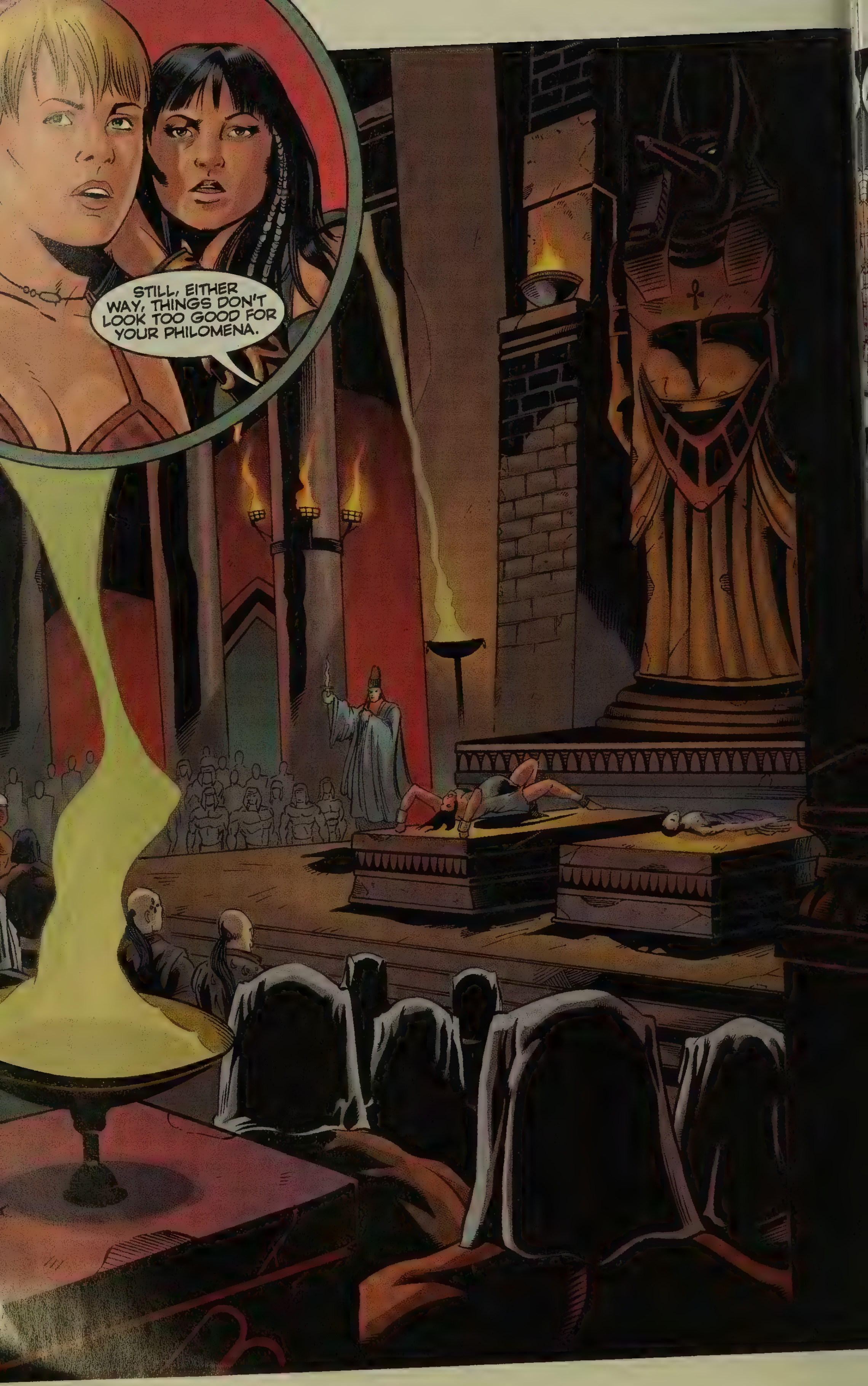

A LITTLE WINE OILS THE WHEELS OF COMMERCE, EH?
A LITTLE SILVER DOESN'T HURT EITHER.
ALL OFFERINGS GRATEFULLY RECEIVED.
HER PRIVATE QUARTERS LIE BEYOND THE HALL OF THE GODS. REMEMBER, IF YOU'RE CAUGHT, NOT A WORD ABOUT HOW YOU GOT IN HERE.
PROBLEM.
NO PROBLEM.

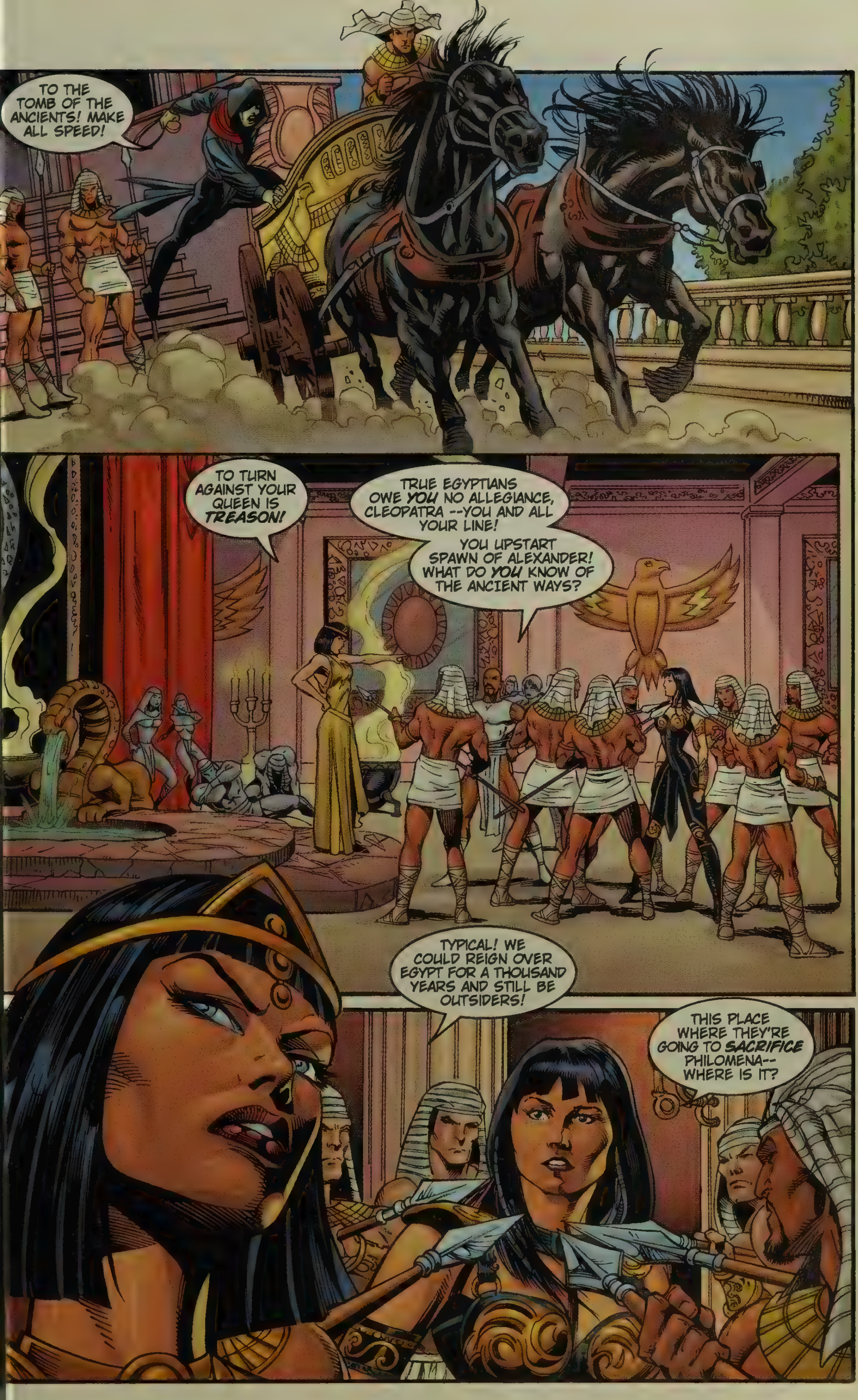

RECKON THAT'S IT?
POSSIBLE.
HOW DO YOU WANT TO DO THIS?
NO POINT TIPTOEING AROUND ANYMORE.
LET'S JUST...
...GO FOR IT!

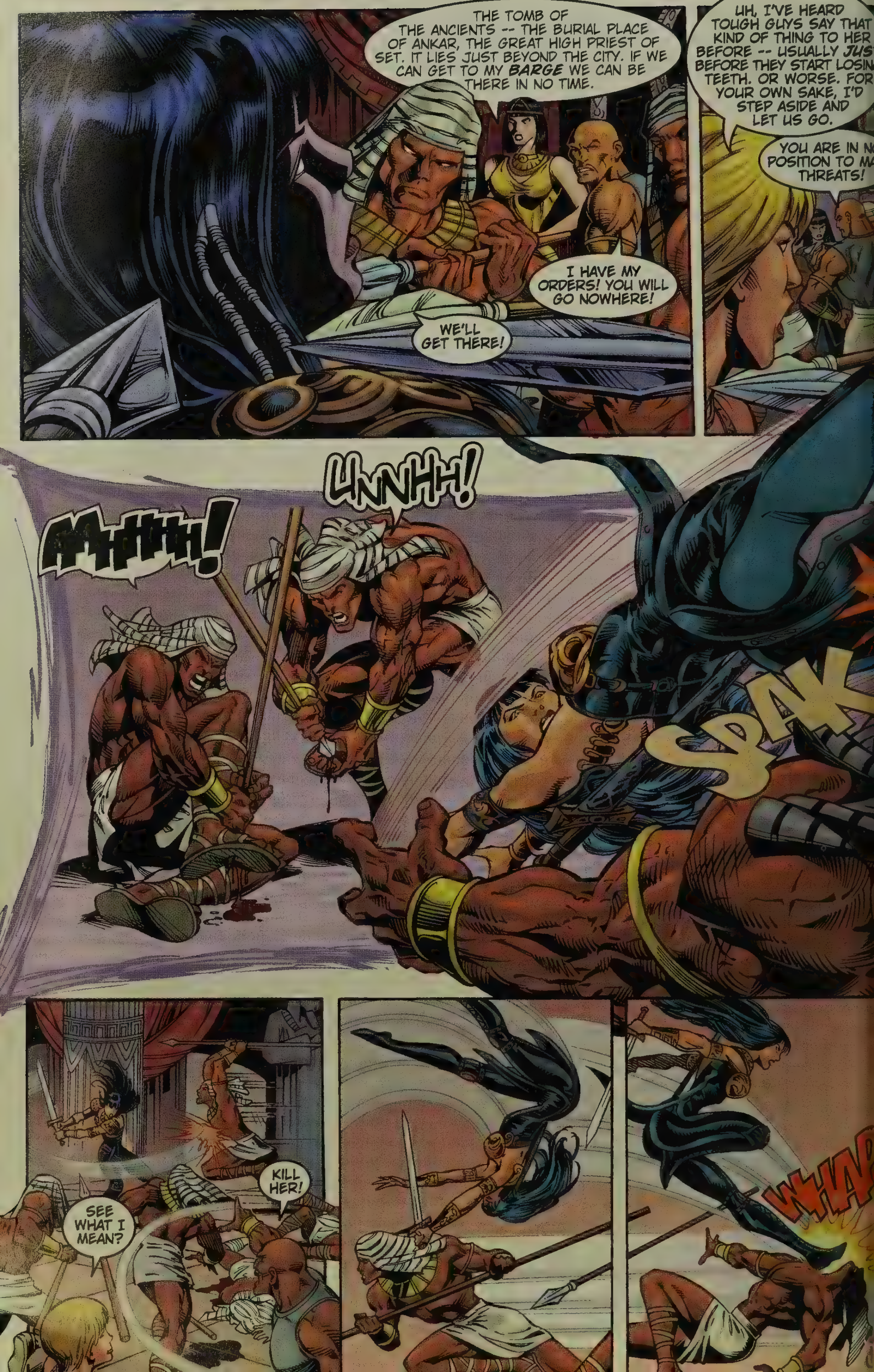

WHAM
STAY
OWN!
CALL 'EM OFF! WE ONLY WANT TO TALK!
XENA, ISN'T IT? YES, THE WARRIOR PRINCESS! THIS IS A PLEASURE!
TELL NEPATUK!
QUITE AN ENTRANCE, BUT YOU COULD JUST HAVE MADE AN APPOINTMENT -- I'D HAVE BEEN HAPPY TO SEE YOU.
YOU KNOW ME?
MY FORMER LOVER JULIUS USED TO CURSE YOU QUITE REGULARLY. PERSONALLY, I ALWAYS THOUGHT WE'D GET ON VERY WELL.

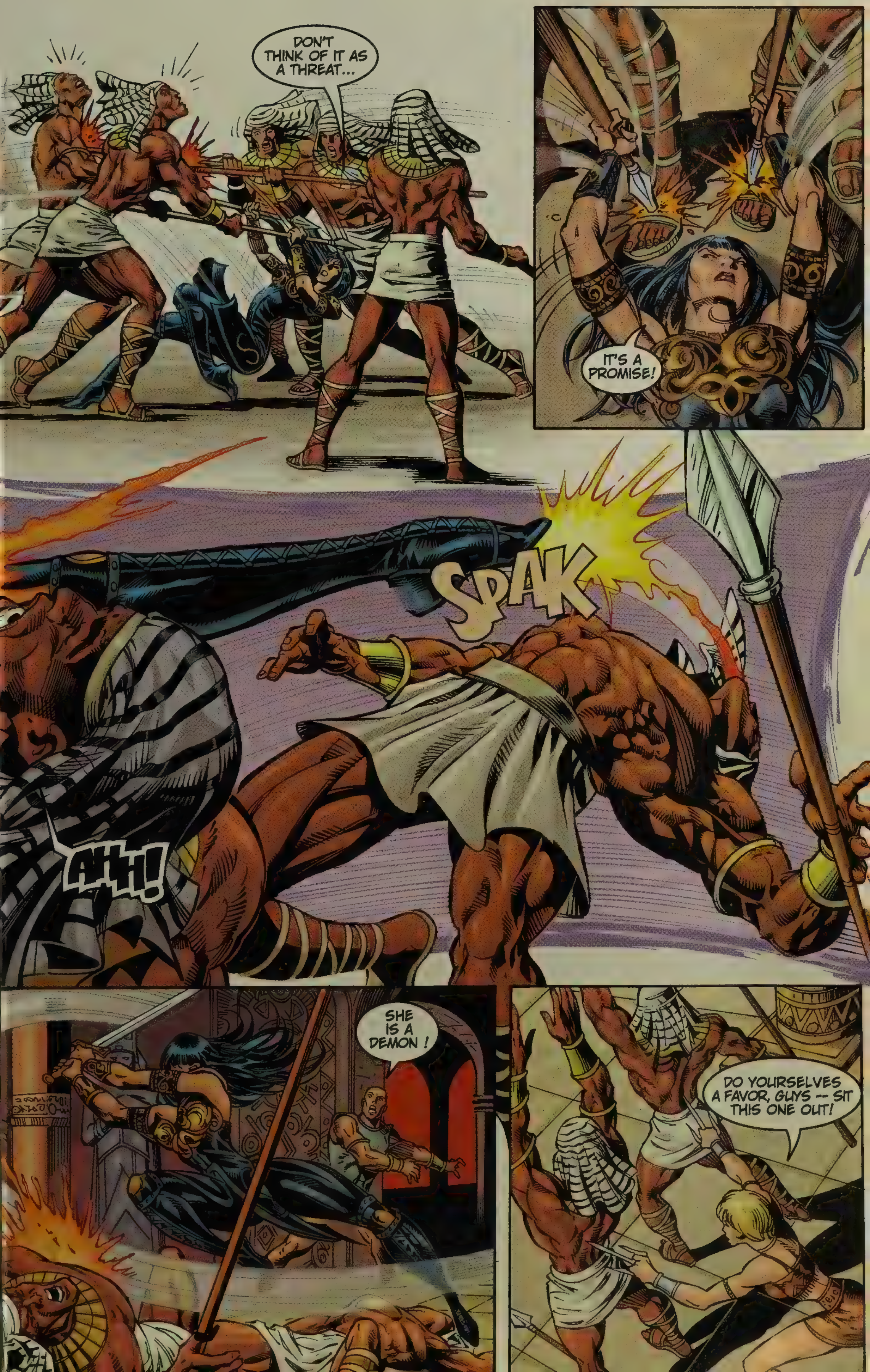

I DIDN'T COME HERE TO EXCHANGE PLEASANTRIES, CLEOPATRA. I WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU'VE DONE WITH PHILOMENA.
THAT'S A DIFFICULT ONE. HELP ME OUT-- WHO IS PHILOMENA?
DON'T PRETEND YOU DON'T KNOW-- SHE'S CARRYING PTOLEMY'S CHILD.
NOW THAT IS INTERESTING! BUT -- I ASSURE YOU, IT REALLY IS NEWS TO ME.
AH, NEPATUK! LATE AS USUAL! THANKFULLY, YOU'RE NOT NEEDED.
LOWER YOUR WEAPONS! I HAVE TOLD YOU, I AM QUITE SAFE.
YOUR SAFETY NO LONGER CONCERNS ME! YOUR DAYS ARE OVER, CLEOPATRA!
THE AMULET, I ASSUME?

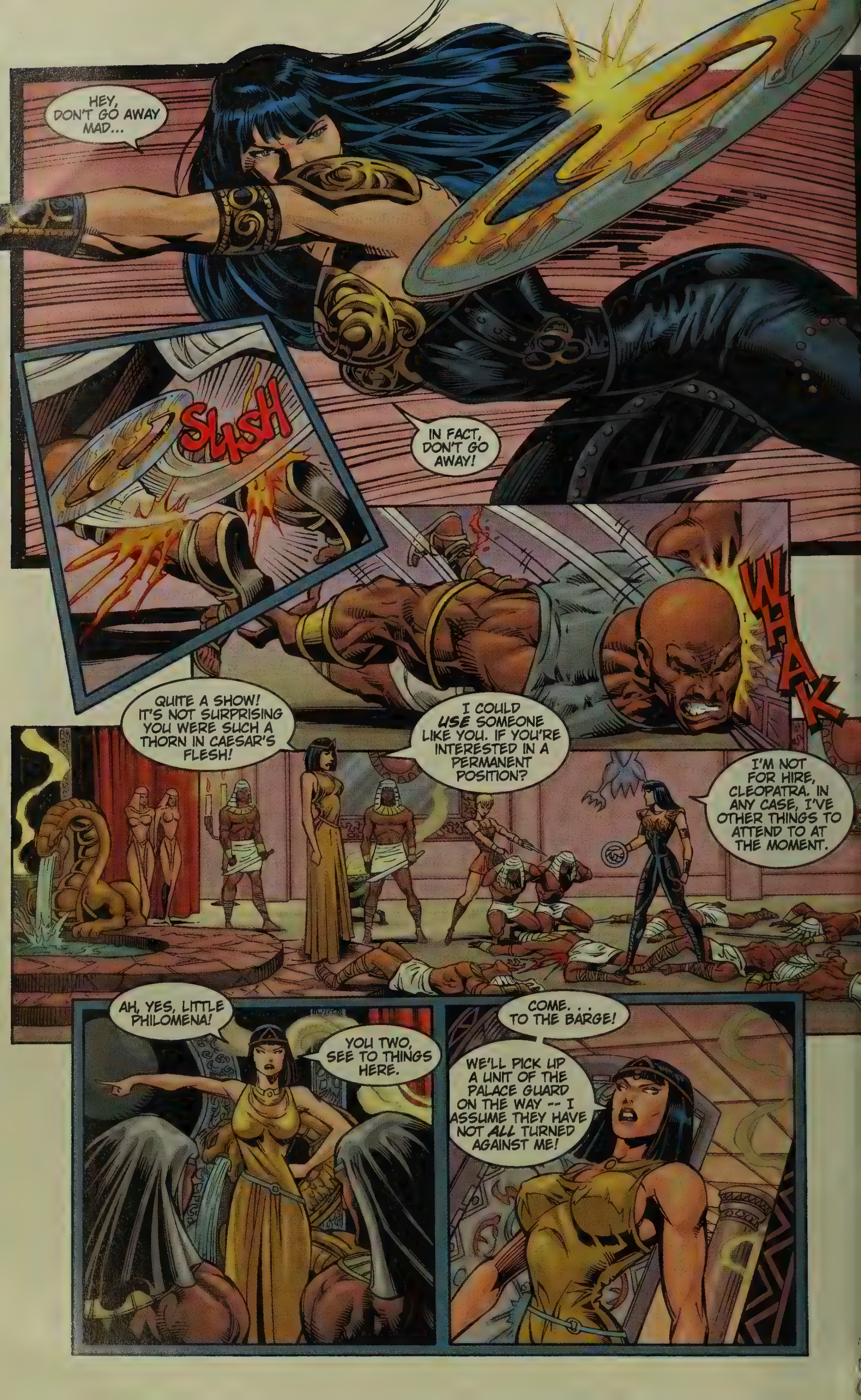

I HAVE EEN SEARCHING R THIS -- IT WAS OST CONSIDERATE F YOU TO BRING IT TO ME!
WHEN THE GOD SET RISES, SO A NEW EGYPT WILL RISE -- NEVER MORE TO BEND THE KNEE TO ROME!
WHERE'S PHILOMENA?
WAITING-- WAITING AT THE TOMB OF THE ANCIENTS! WHEN ANKAR WALKS AGAIN, THEN CAN THE RITUAL BEGIN!
SEE THAT THEY REMAIN HERE. IF THEY TRY TO ESCAPE, KILL THEM.
YES, LORD NEPATUK.
TREACHERY! THE MAN'S MAD! I SHOULD HAVE GOT RID OF HIM A LONG TIME AGO!
WHAT DID HE MEAN -- THE RITUAL?
THAT? OH, AH...YES, THAT WOULD EXPLAIN THINGS. THE CHILD OF PTOLEMY, YOU SEE -- THE BLOODLINE HAS TO BE A ROYAL BLOODLINE. THEN WHEN THE GIRL IS SACRIFICED--
SACRIFICED?
THE SPIRIT OF SET WILL FLOW INTO THE UNBORN CHILD AND RIP UP OUT OF HER TO BRING DESTRUCTION ON EGYPT'S ENEMIES-- OR SO THE LEGEND GOES.
FRANKLY, I MUST ADMIT I'M A LITTLE BIT SKEPTICAL.

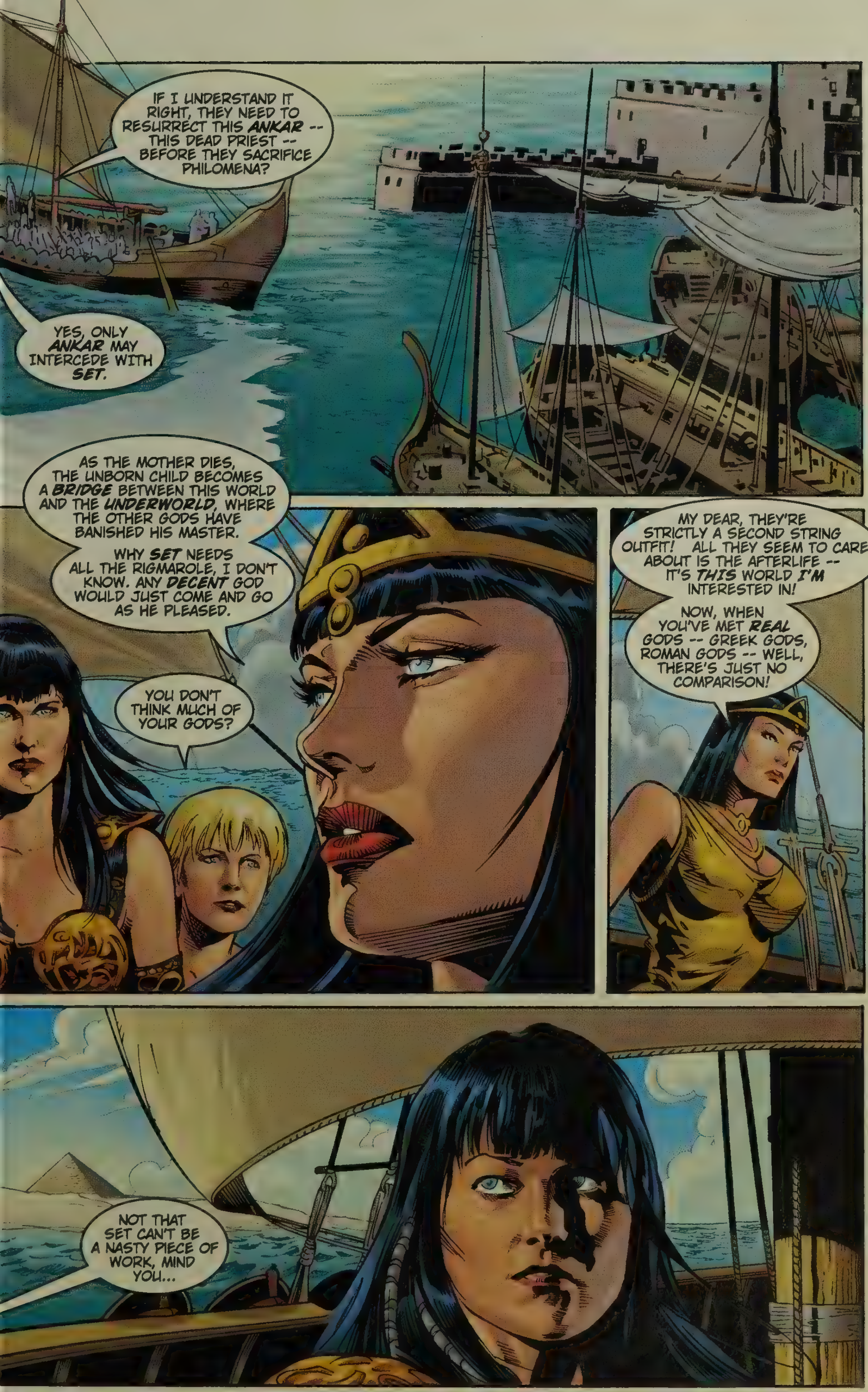

STILL, EITHER WAY, THINGS DON'T LOOK TOO GOOD FOR YOUR PHILOMENA.

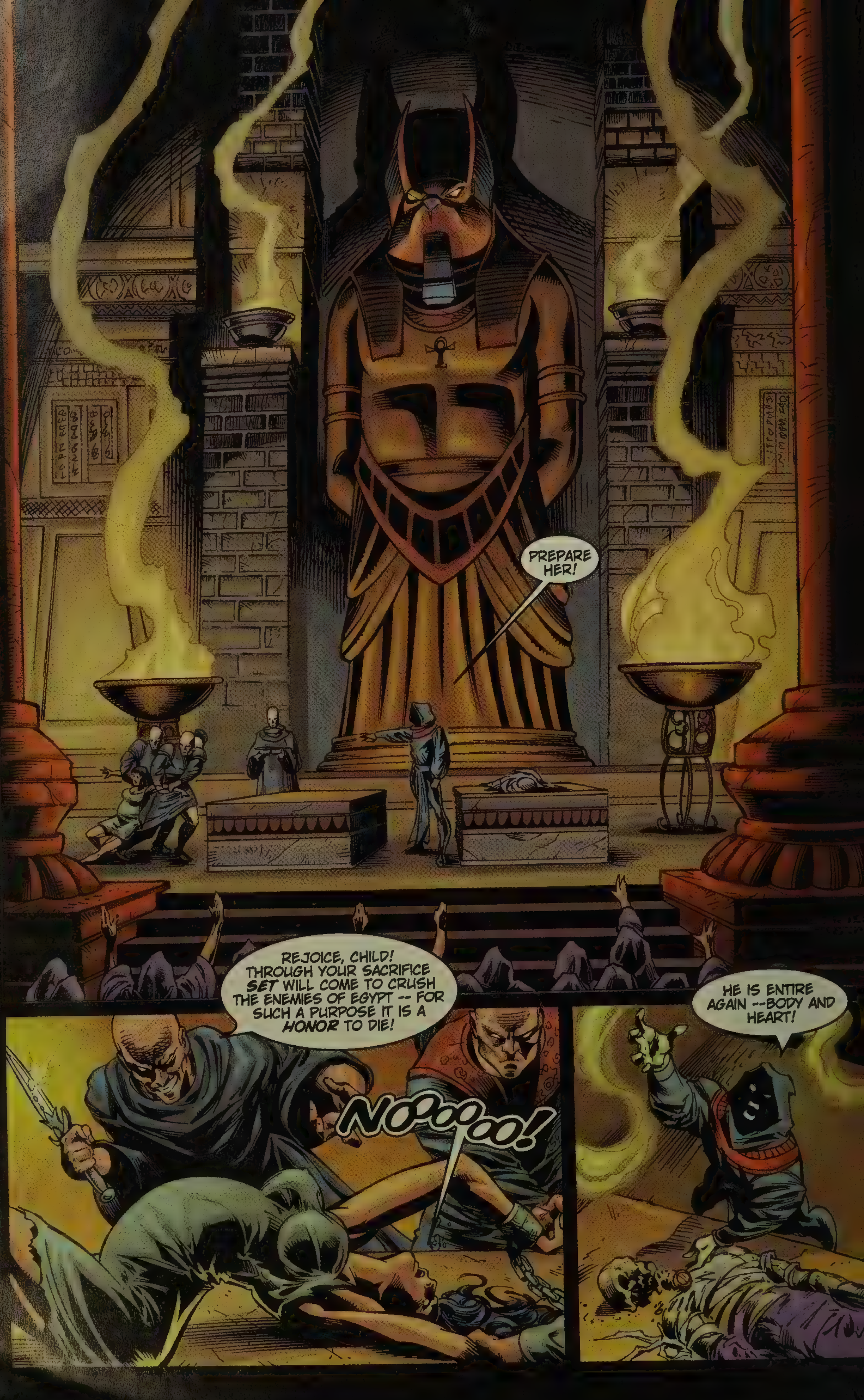

TO THE TOMB OF THE ANCIENTS! MAKE ALL SPEED!
TO TURN AGAINST YOUR QUEEN IS *TREASON!*
TRUE EGYPTIANS OWE *YOU* NO ALLEGIANCE, CLEOPATRA --YOU AND ALL YOUR LINE!
YOU UPSTART SPAWN OF ALEXANDER! WHAT DO *YOU* KNOW OF THE ANCIENT WAYS?
TYPICAL! WE COULD REIGN OVER EGYPT FOR A THOUSAND YEARS AND STILL BE OUTSIDERS!
THIS PLACE WHERE THEY'RE GOING TO *SACRIFICE* PHILOMENA-- WHERE IS IT?

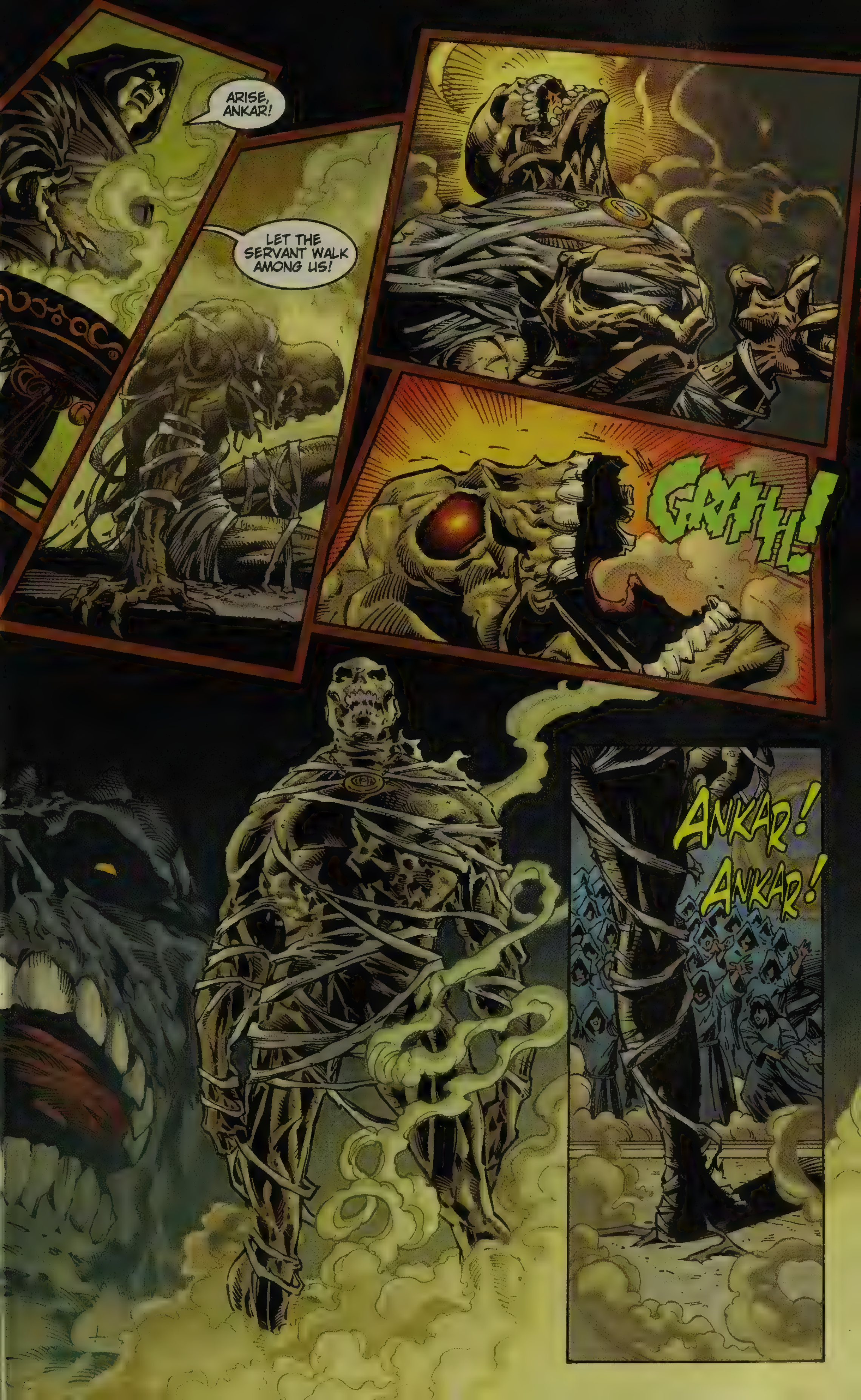

THE TOMB OF THE ANCIENTS -- THE BURIAL PLACE OF ANKAR, THE GREAT HIGH PRIEST OF SET. IT LIES JUST BEYOND THE CITY. IF WE CAN GET TO MY **BARGE** WE CAN BE THERE IN NO TIME.
I HAVE MY ORDERS! YOU WILL GO NOWHERE!
WE'LL GET THERE!
UH, I'VE HEARD TOUGH GUYS SAY THAT KIND OF THING TO HER BEFORE -- USUALLY ***JUS*** BEFORE THEY START LOSIN TEETH. OR WORSE. FOR YOUR OWN SAKE, I'D STEP ASIDE AND LET US GO.
YOU ARE IN N POSITION TO M THREATS!
AHHHH!
UNNHH!
SPAK
KILL HER!
SEE WHAT I MEAN?
WHA

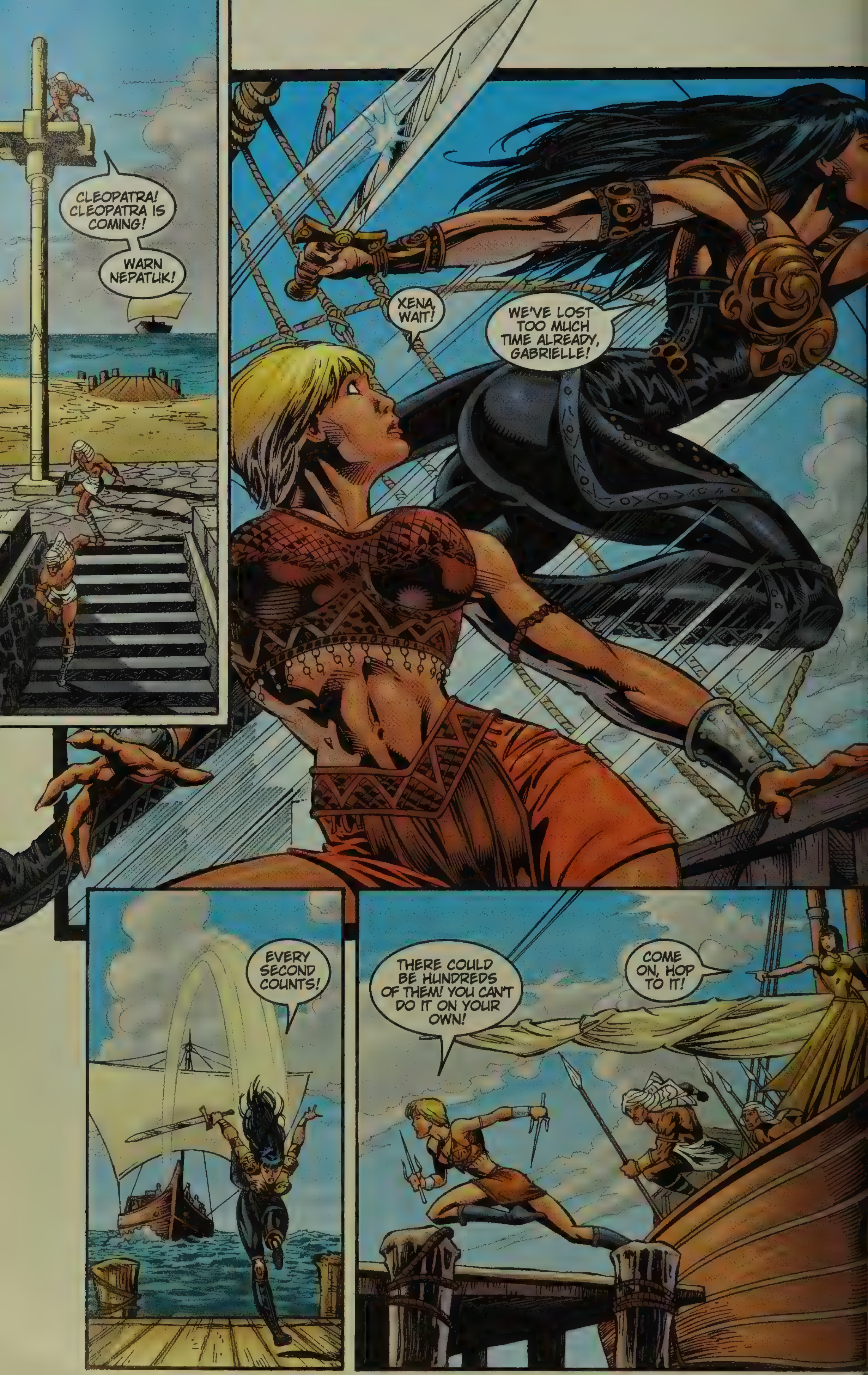

DON'T THINK OF IT AS A THREAT...
IT'S A PROMISE!
SPAK
AHH!
SHE IS A DEMON!
DO YOURSELVES A FAVOR, GUYS -- SIT THIS ONE OUT!

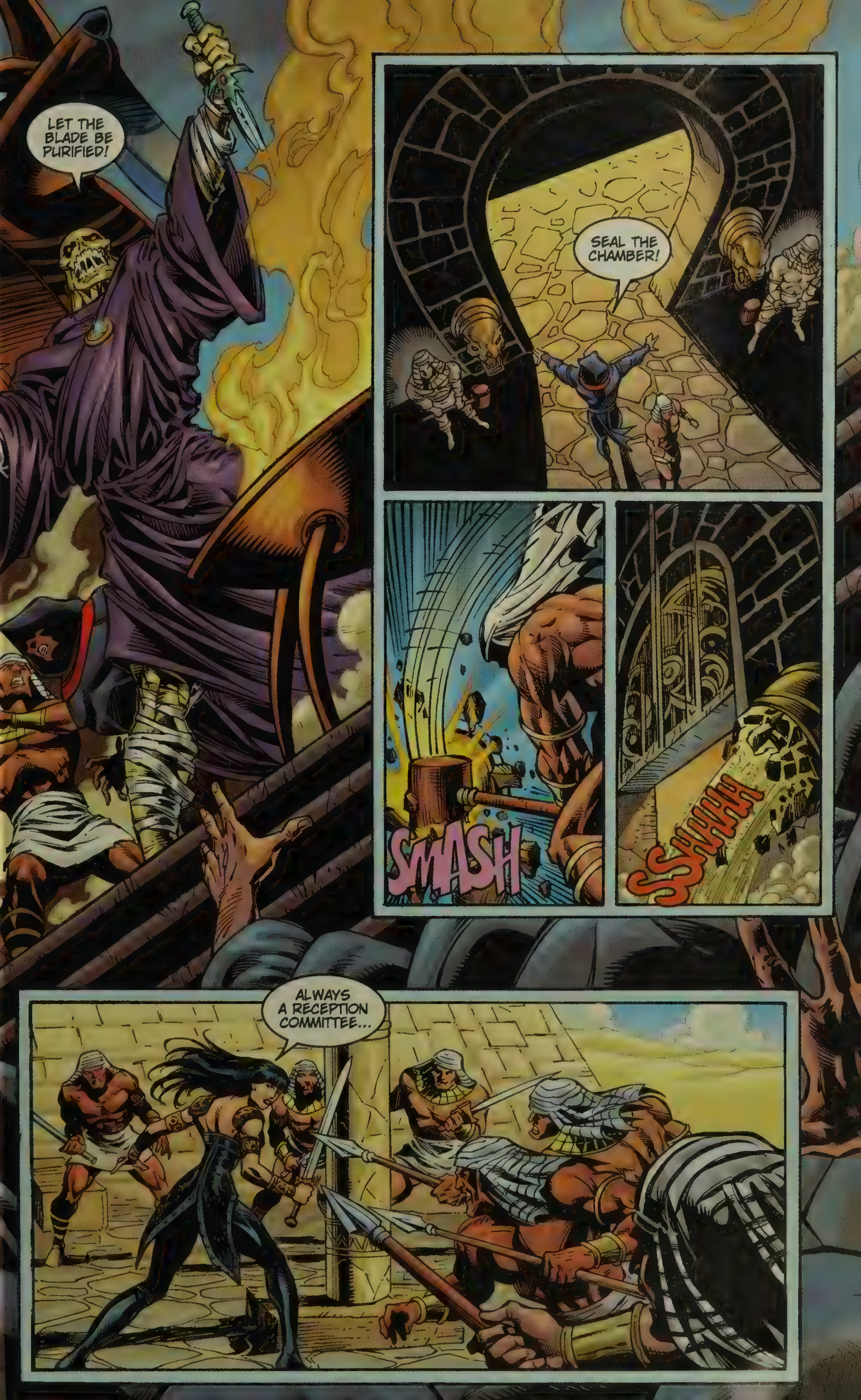

HEY, DON'T GO AWAY MAD...
SLISH
IN FACT, DON'T GO AWAY!
WHAK
QUITE A SHOW! IT'S NOT SURPRISING YOU WERE SUCH A THORN IN CAESAR'S FLESH!
I COULD USE SOMEONE LIKE YOU. IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN A PERMANENT POSITION?
I'M NOT FOR HIRE, CLEOPATRA. IN ANY CASE, I'VE OTHER THINGS TO ATTEND TO AT THE MOMENT.
AH, YES, LITTLE PHILOMENA!
YOU TWO, SEE TO THINGS HERE.
COME. . . TO THE BARGE!
WE'LL PICK UP A UNIT OF THE PALACE GUARD ON THE WAY -- I ASSUME THEY HAVE NOT ALL TURNED AGAINST ME!

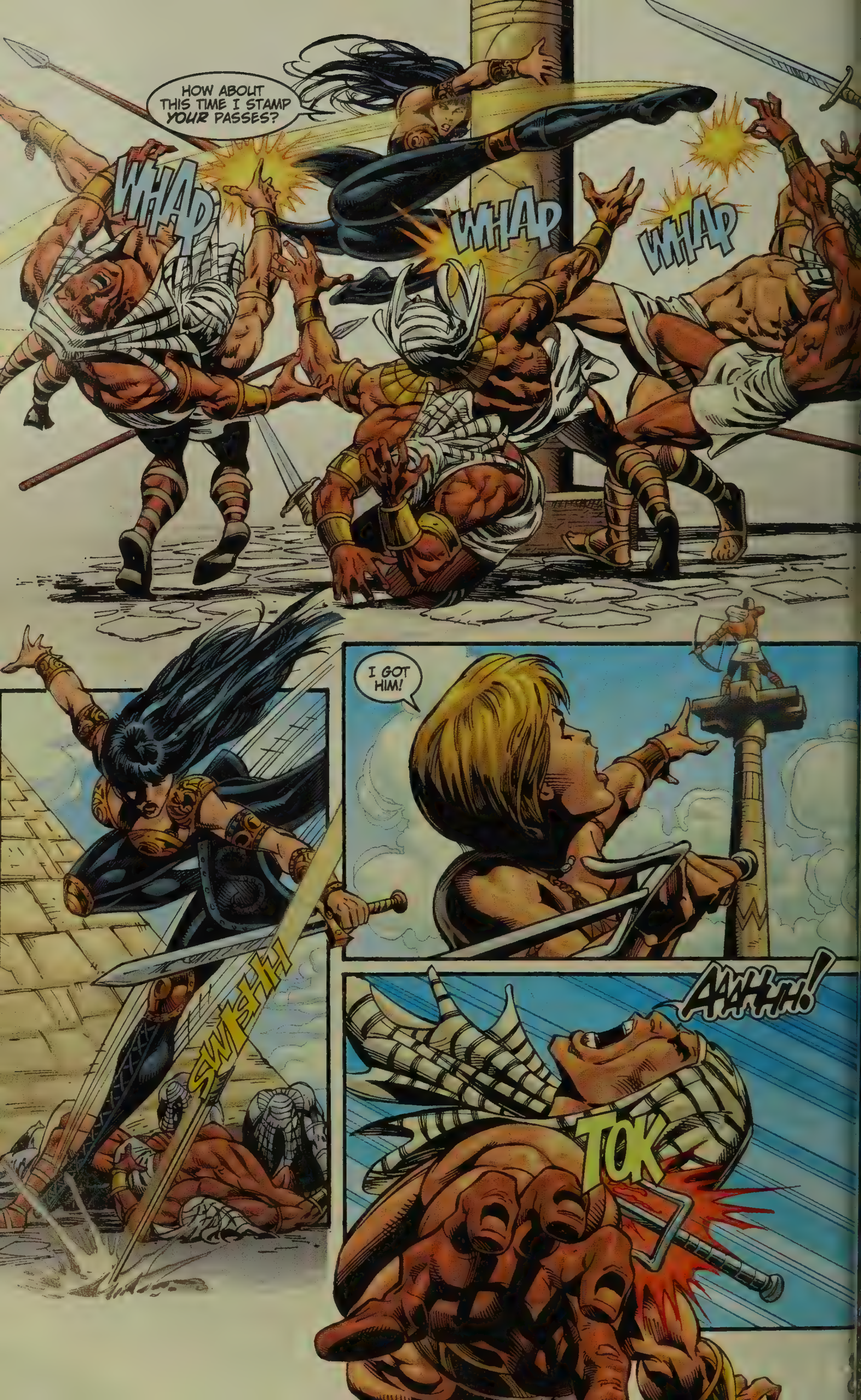

IF I UNDERSTAND IT RIGHT, THEY NEED TO RESURRECT THIS ANKAR -- THIS DEAD PRIEST -- BEFORE THEY SACRIFICE PHILOMENA?
YES, ONLY ANKAR MAY INTERCEDE WITH SET.
AS THE MOTHER DIES, THE UNBORN CHILD BECOMES A BRIDGE BETWEEN THIS WORLD AND THE UNDERWORLD, WHERE THE OTHER GODS HAVE BANISHED HIS MASTER.
WHY SET NEEDS ALL THE RIGMAROLE, I DON'T KNOW. ANY DECENT GOD WOULD JUST COME AND GO AS HE PLEASED.
YOU DON'T THINK MUCH OF YOUR GODS?
MY DEAR, THEY'RE STRICTLY A SECOND STRING OUTFIT! ALL THEY SEEM TO CARE ABOUT IS THE AFTERLIFE -- IT'S THIS WORLD I'M INTERESTED IN!
NOW, WHEN YOU'VE MET REAL GODS -- GREEK GODS, ROMAN GODS -- WELL, THERE'S JUST NO COMPARISON!
NOT THAT SET CAN'T BE A NASTY PIECE OF WORK, MIND YOU...

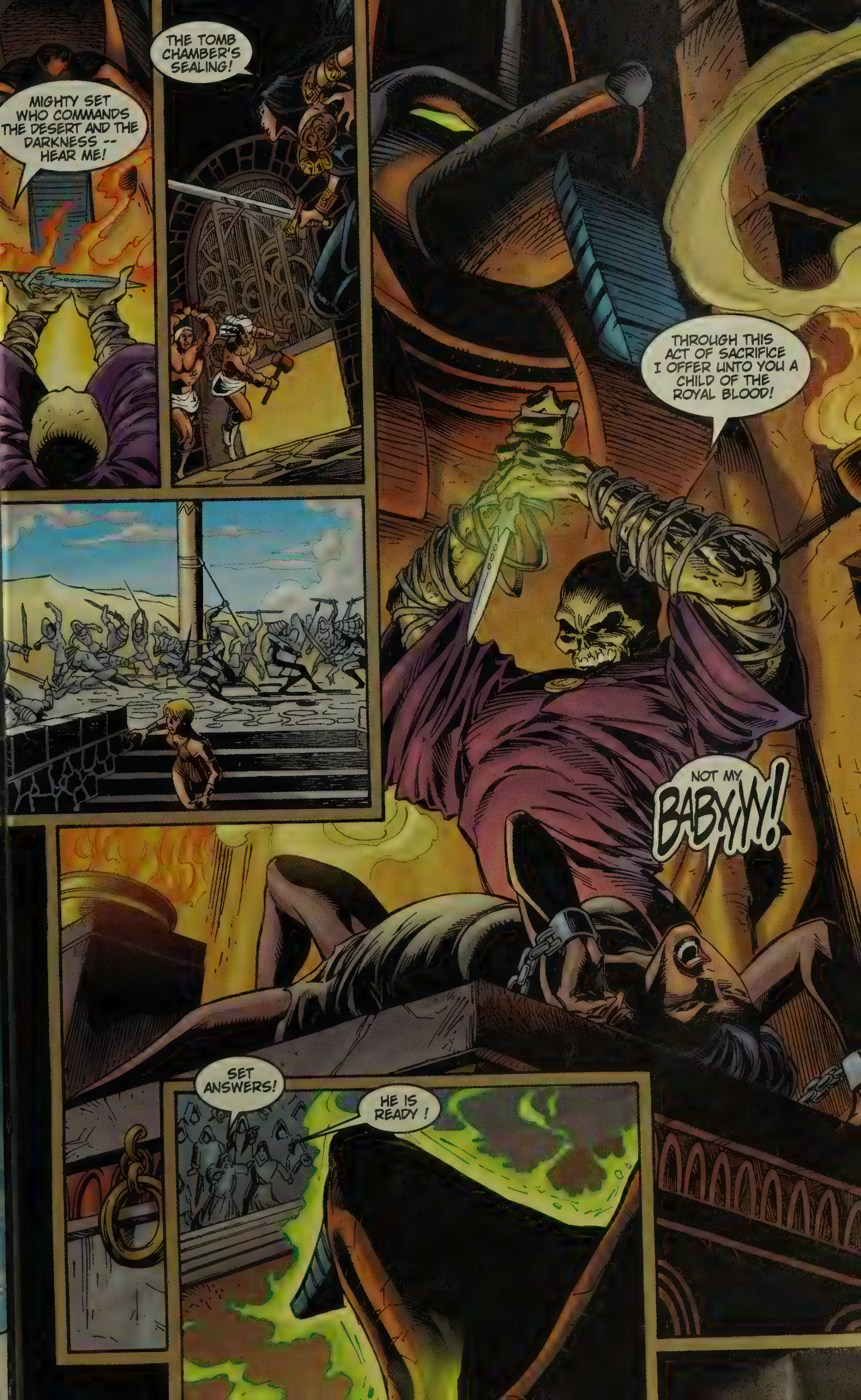

PREPARE HER!
REJOICE, CHILD! THROUGH YOUR SACRIFICE **SET** WILL COME TO CRUSH THE ENEMIES OF EGYPT -- FOR SUCH A PURPOSE IT IS A **HONOR** TO DIE!
NOOOOOO!
HE IS ENTIRE AGAIN --BODY AND HEART!

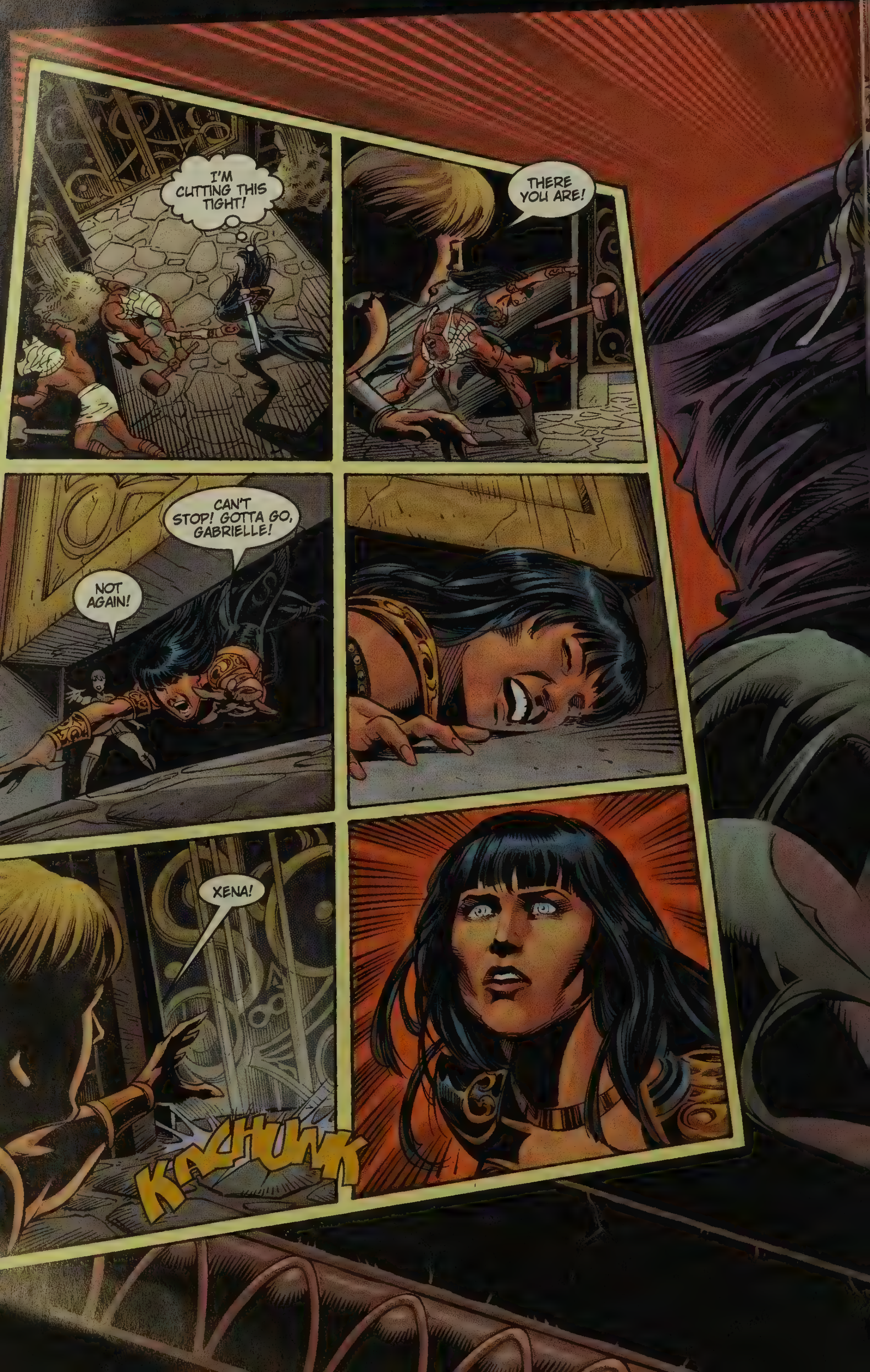

ARISE, ANKAR!
LET THE SERVANT WALK AMONG US!
GRAHH!
ANKAR! ANKAR!

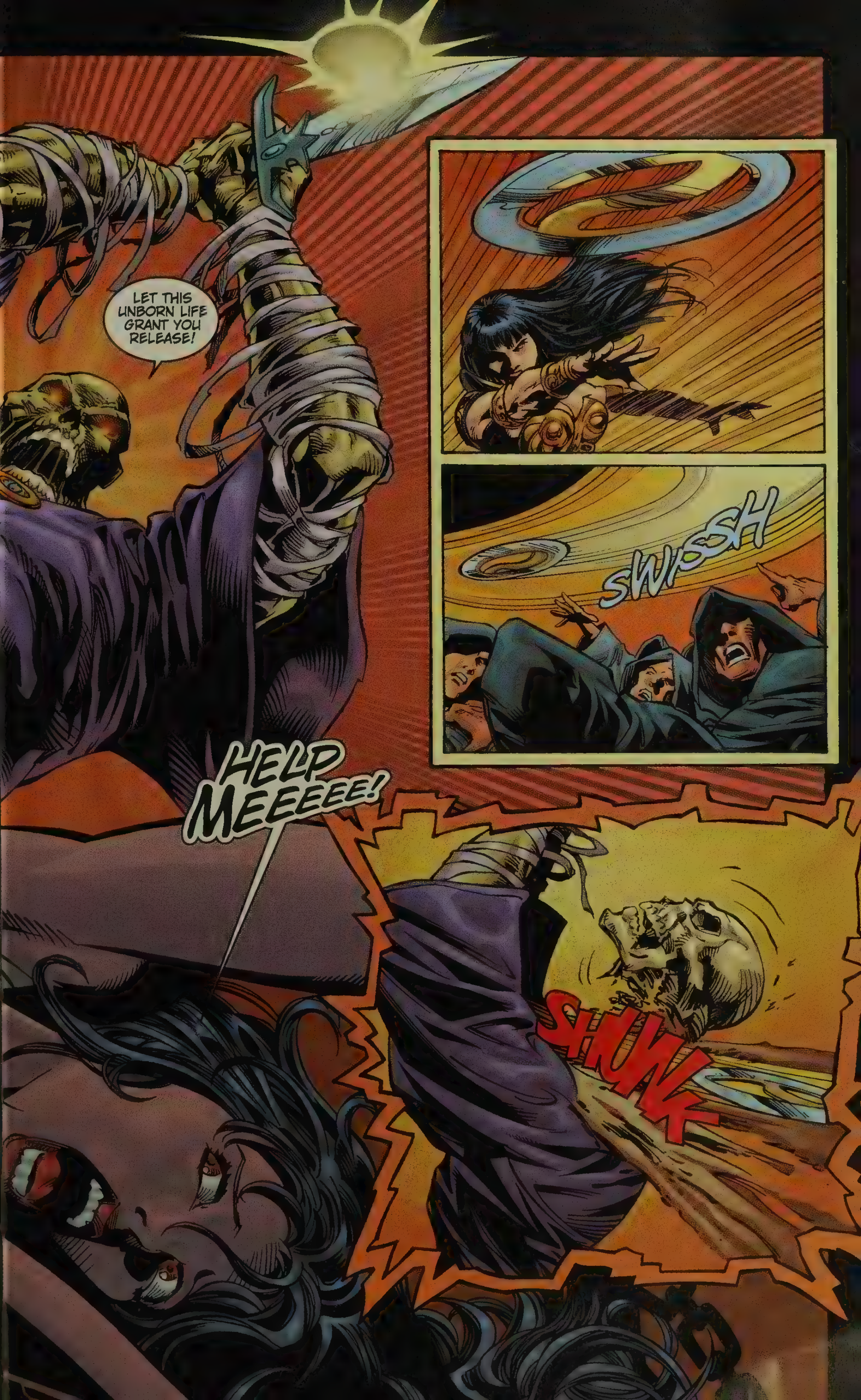

CLEOPATRA! CLEOPATRA IS COMING!
WARN NEPATUK!
XENA, WAIT!
WE'VE LOST TOO MUCH TIME ALREADY, GABRIELLE!
EVERY SECOND COUNTS!
THERE COULD BE HUNDREDS OF THEM! YOU CAN'T DO IT ON YOUR OWN!
COME ON, HOP TO IT!

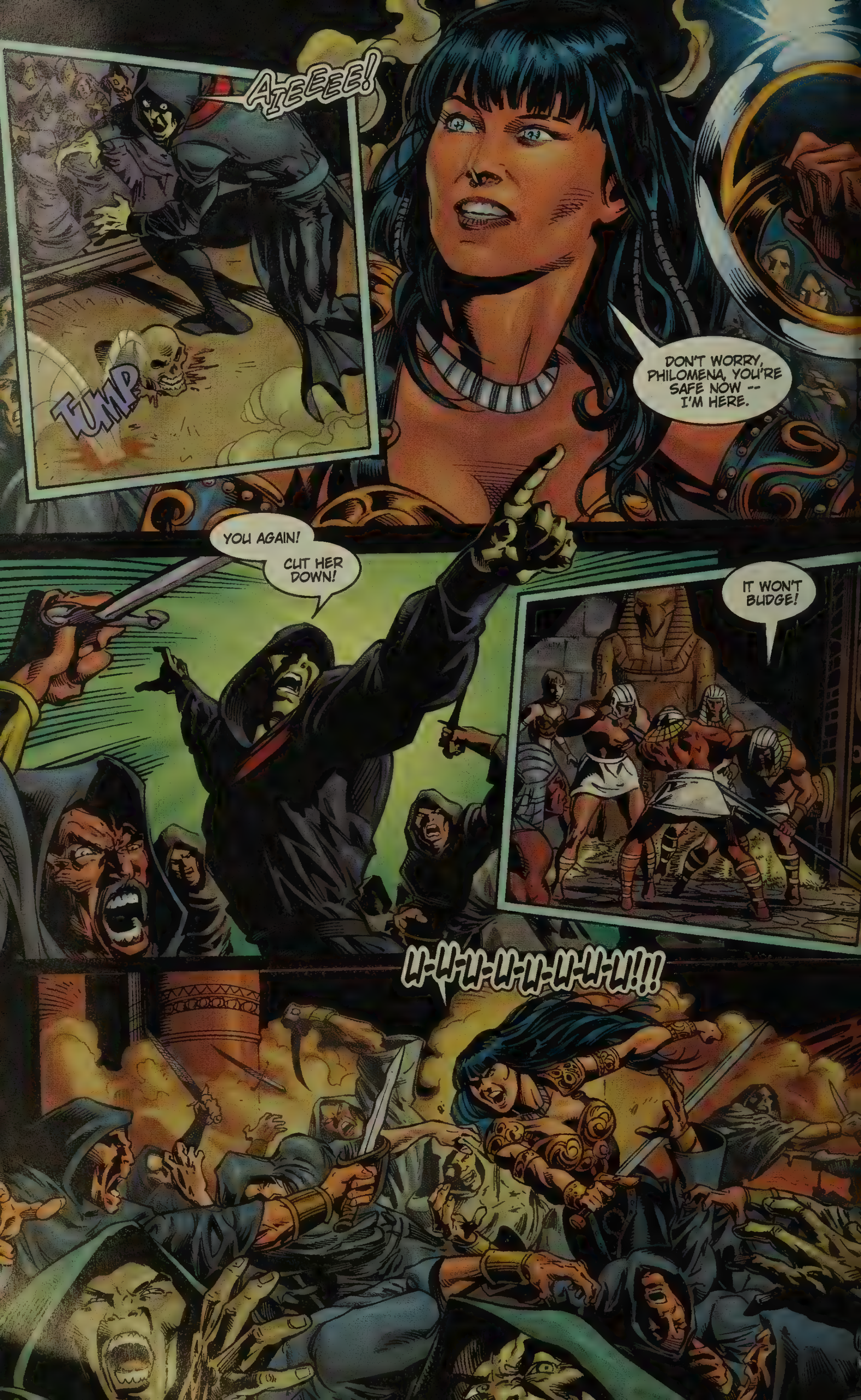

LET THE BLADE BE PURIFIED!
SEAL THE CHAMBER!
SMASH
SSHHHH
ALWAYS A RECEPTION COMMITTEE...

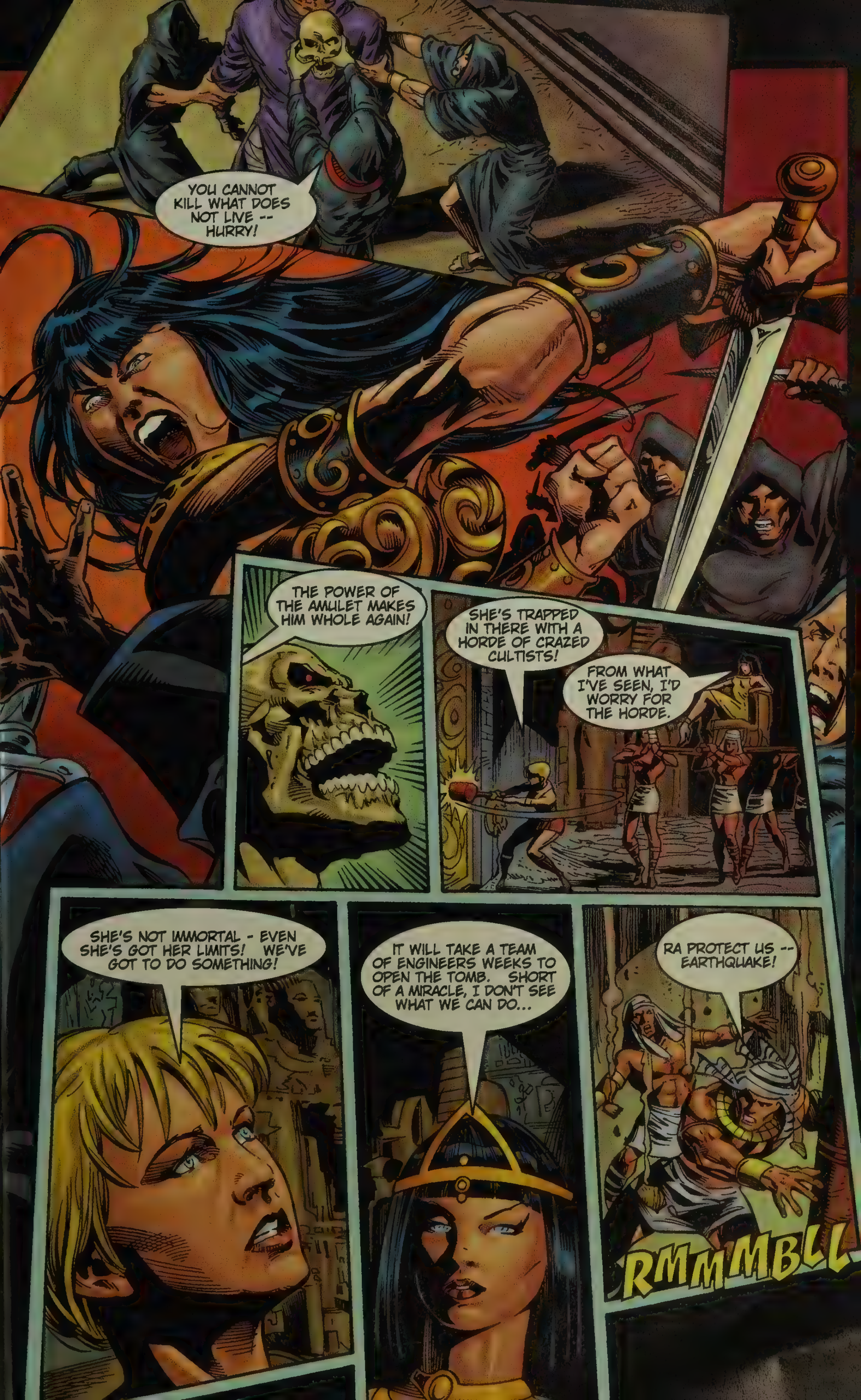

HOW ABOUT THIS TIME I STAMP *YOUR* PASSES?
WHAP
WHAP
WHAP
I GOT HIM!
SWISHH
AAAHHH!
TOK

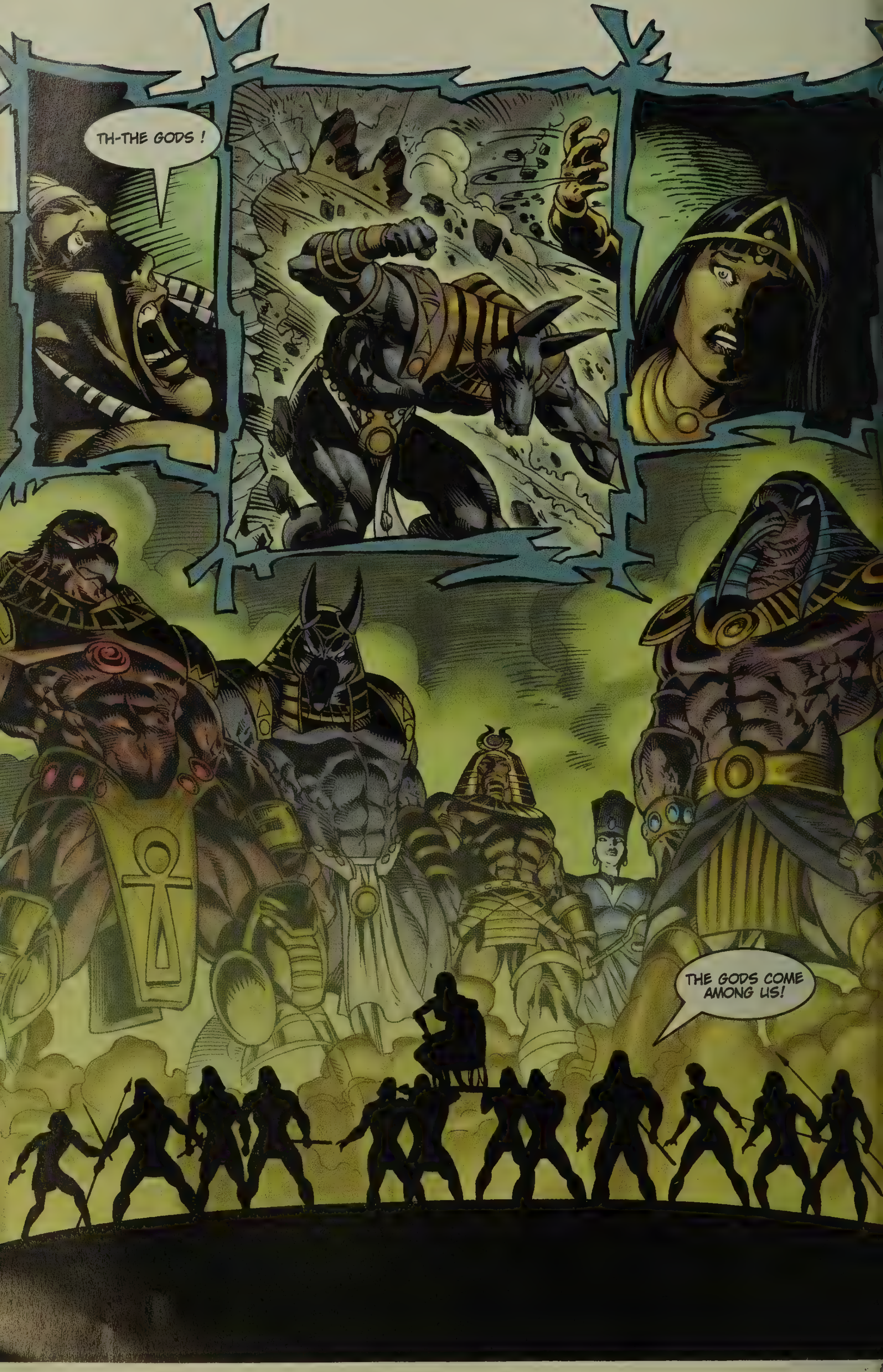

MIGHTY SET WHO COMMANDS THE DESERT AND THE DARKNESS -- HEAR ME!
THE TOMB CHAMBER'S SEALING!
THROUGH THIS ACT OF SACRIFICE I OFFER UNTO YOU A CHILD OF THE ROYAL BLOOD!
NOT MY BABYYY!
SET ANSWERS!
HE IS READY!

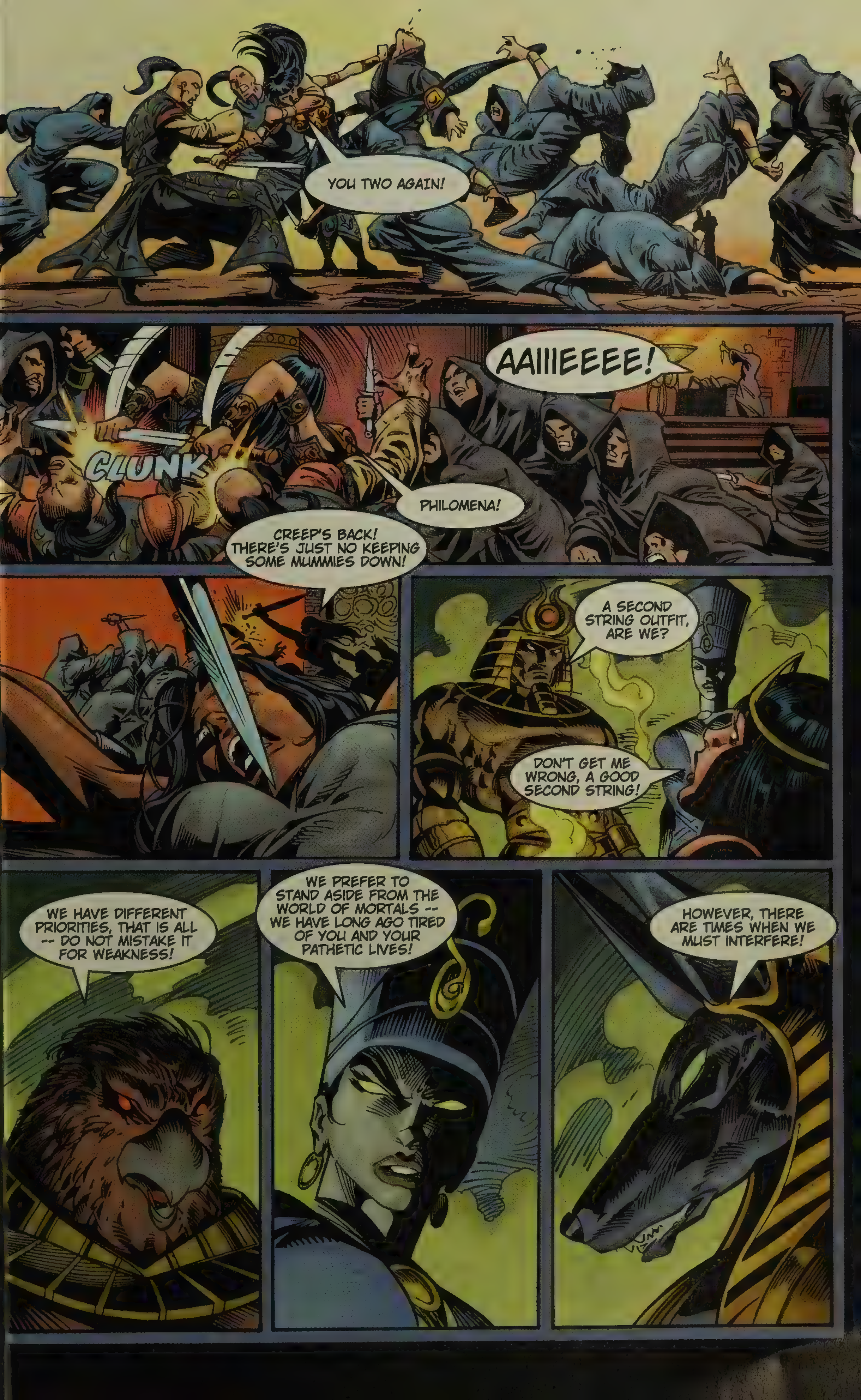

I'M CUTTING THIS TIGHT!
THERE YOU ARE!
CAN'T STOP! GOTTA GO, GABRIELLE!
NOT AGAIN!
XENA!
KACHUNK

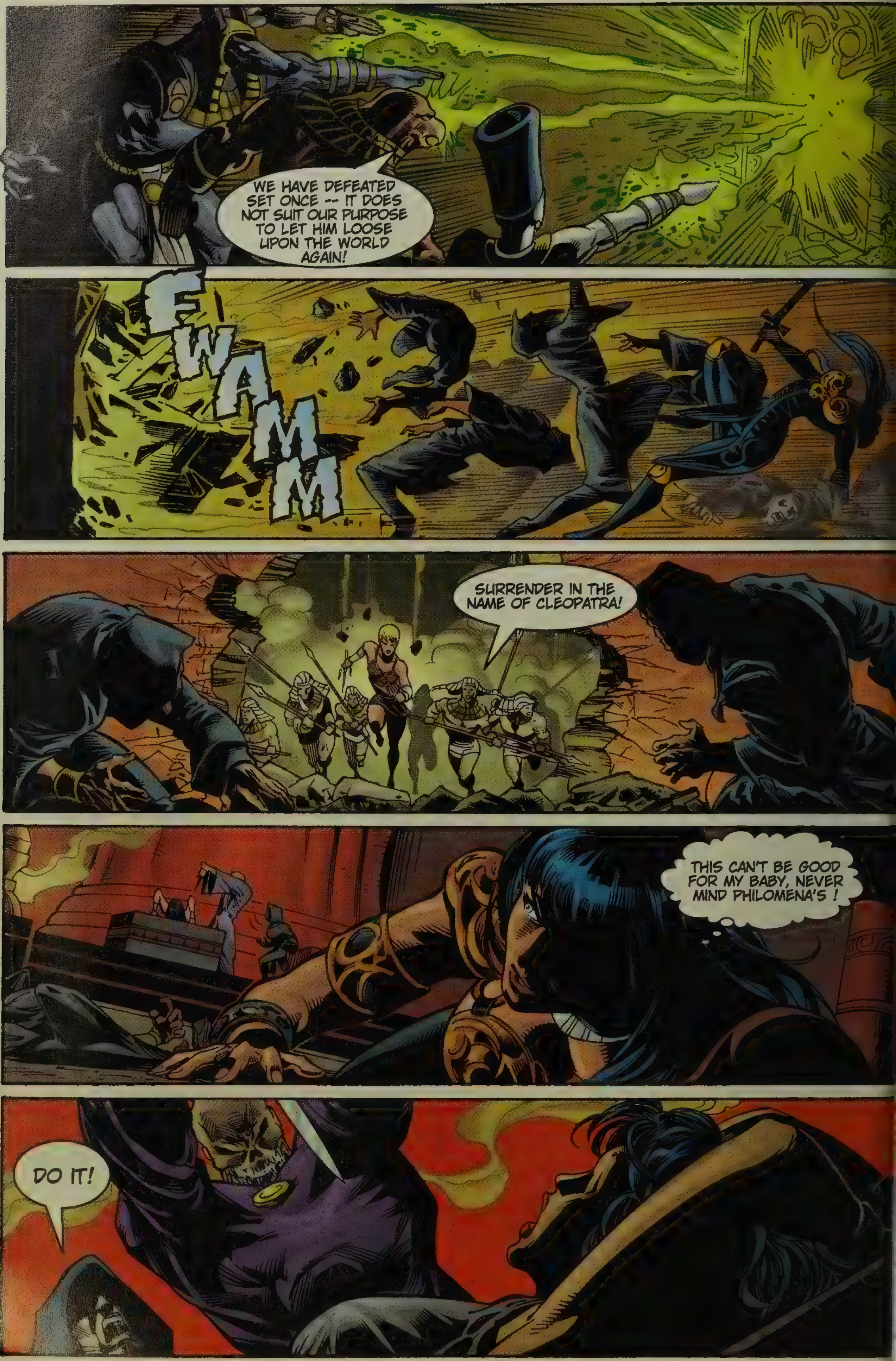

LET THIS UNBORN LIFE GRANT YOU RELEASE!
SWISSH
HELP MEEEEEE!
SHUNK

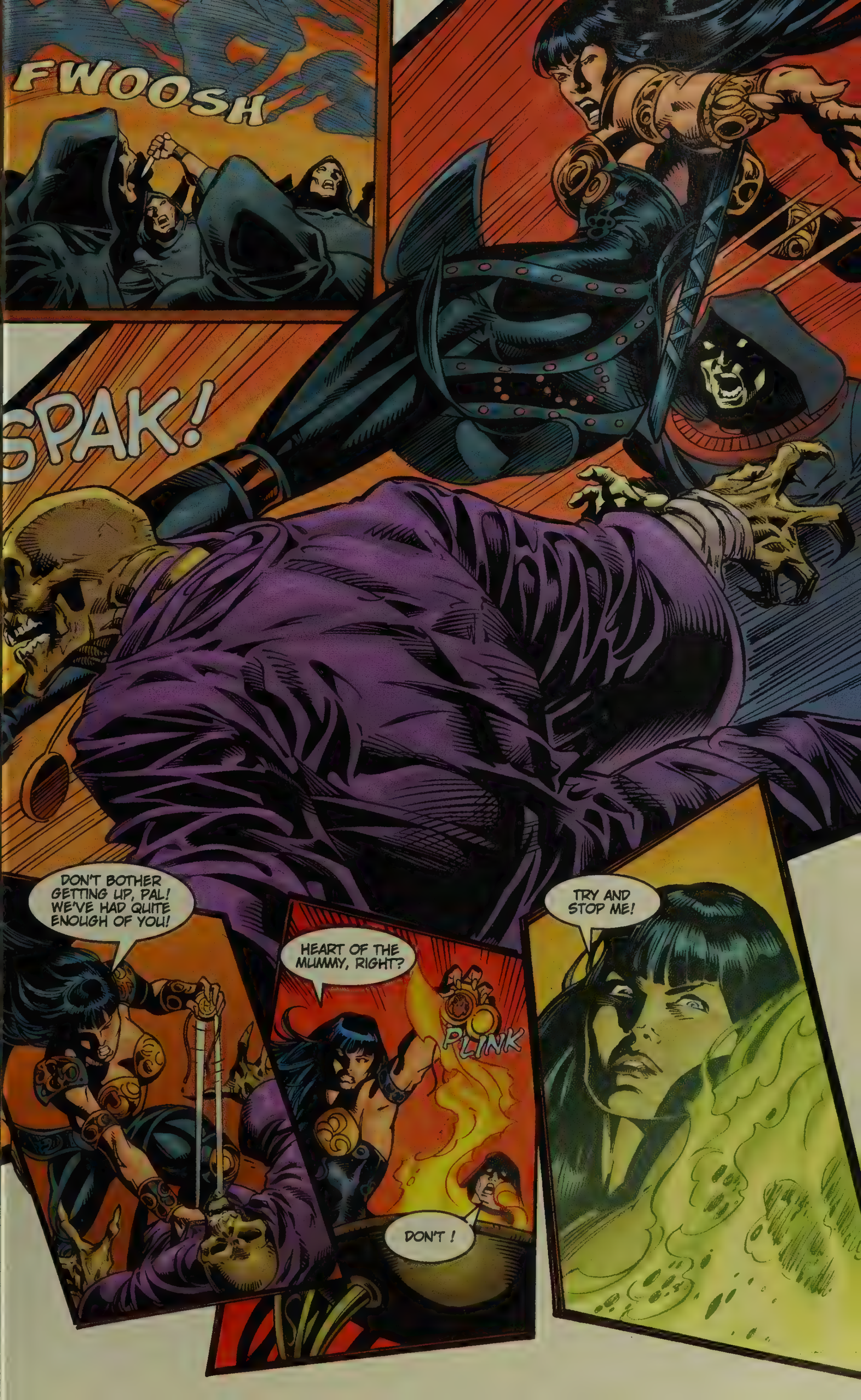

AIEEEE!
TUMP
DON'T WORRY, PHILOMENA, YOU'RE SAFE NOW -- I'M HERE.
YOU AGAIN!
CUT HER DOWN!
IT WON'T BUDGE!
LI-LI-LI-LI-LI-LI-LI-LI!!!

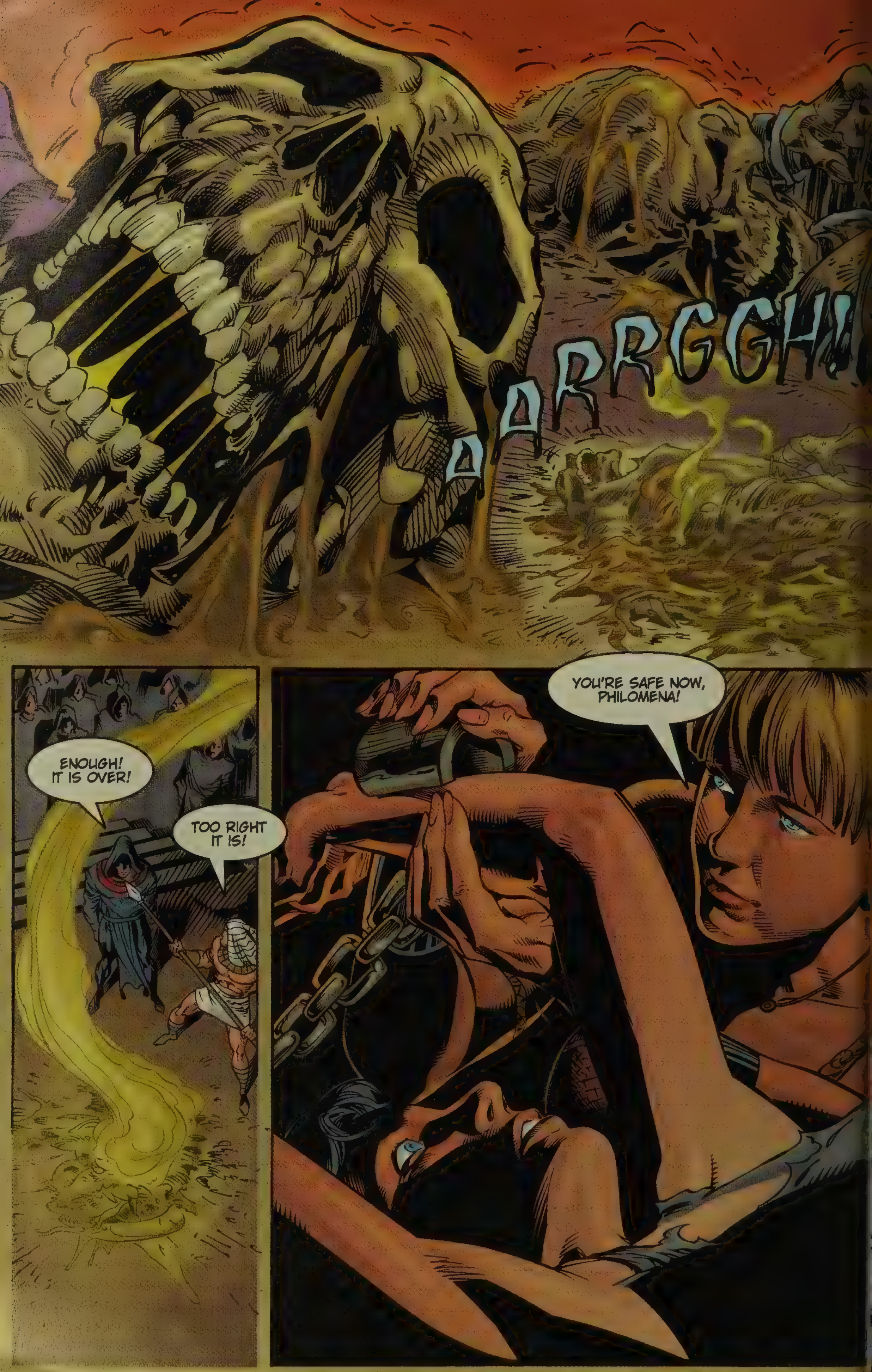

YOU CANNOT KILL WHAT DOES NOT LIVE -- HURRY!
THE POWER OF THE AMULET MAKES HIM WHOLE AGAIN!
SHE'S TRAPPED IN THERE WITH A HORDE OF CRAZED CULTISTS!
FROM WHAT I'VE SEEN, I'D WORRY FOR THE HORDE.
SHE'S NOT IMMORTAL - EVEN SHE'S GOT HER LIMITS! WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING!
IT WILL TAKE A TEAM OF ENGINEERS WEEKS TO OPEN THE TOMB. SHORT OF A MIRACLE, I DON'T SEE WHAT WE CAN DO...
RA PROTECT US -- EARTHQUAKE!
RMMMBLL

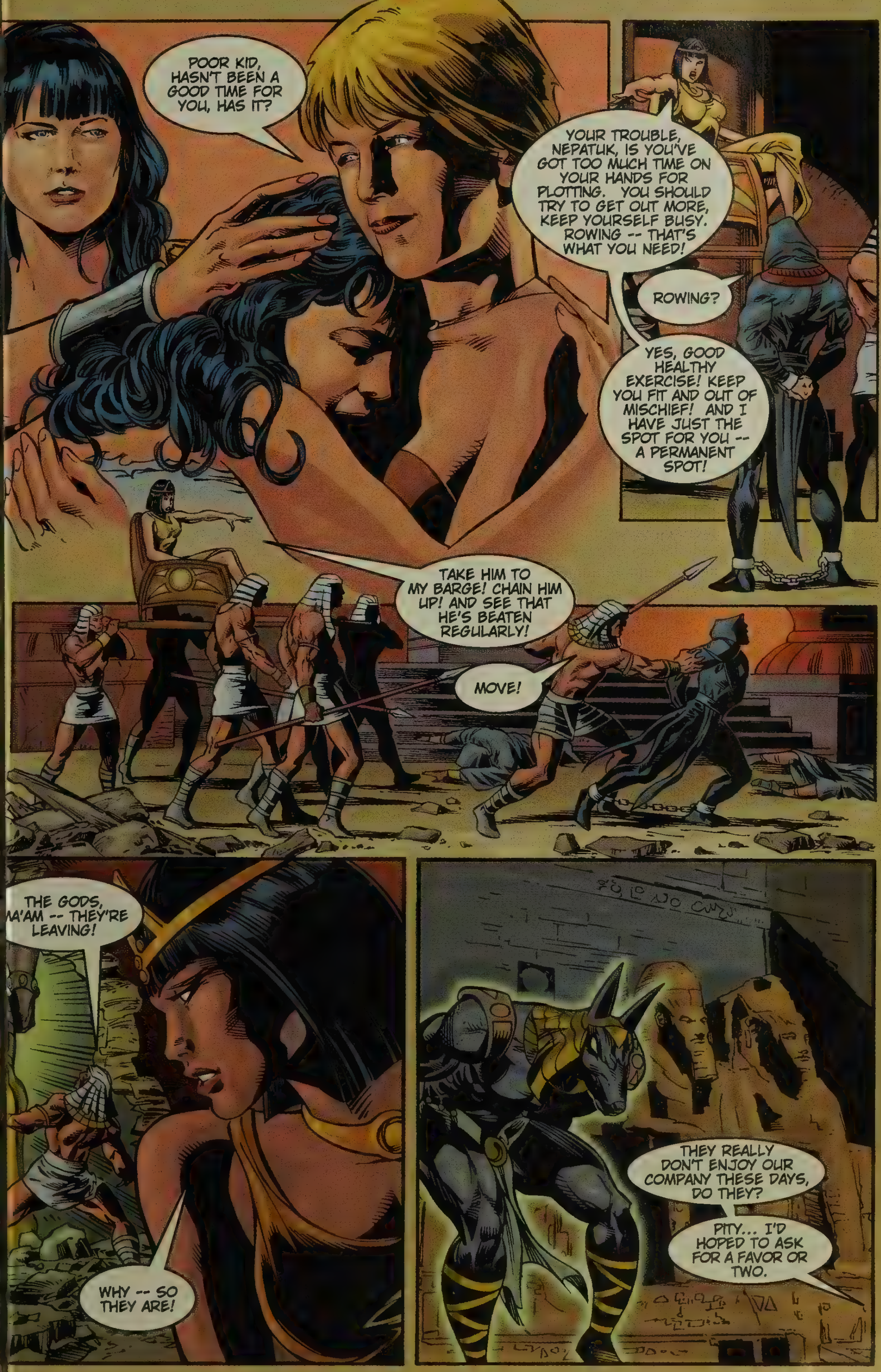

TH-THE GODS !
THE GODS COME AMONG US!

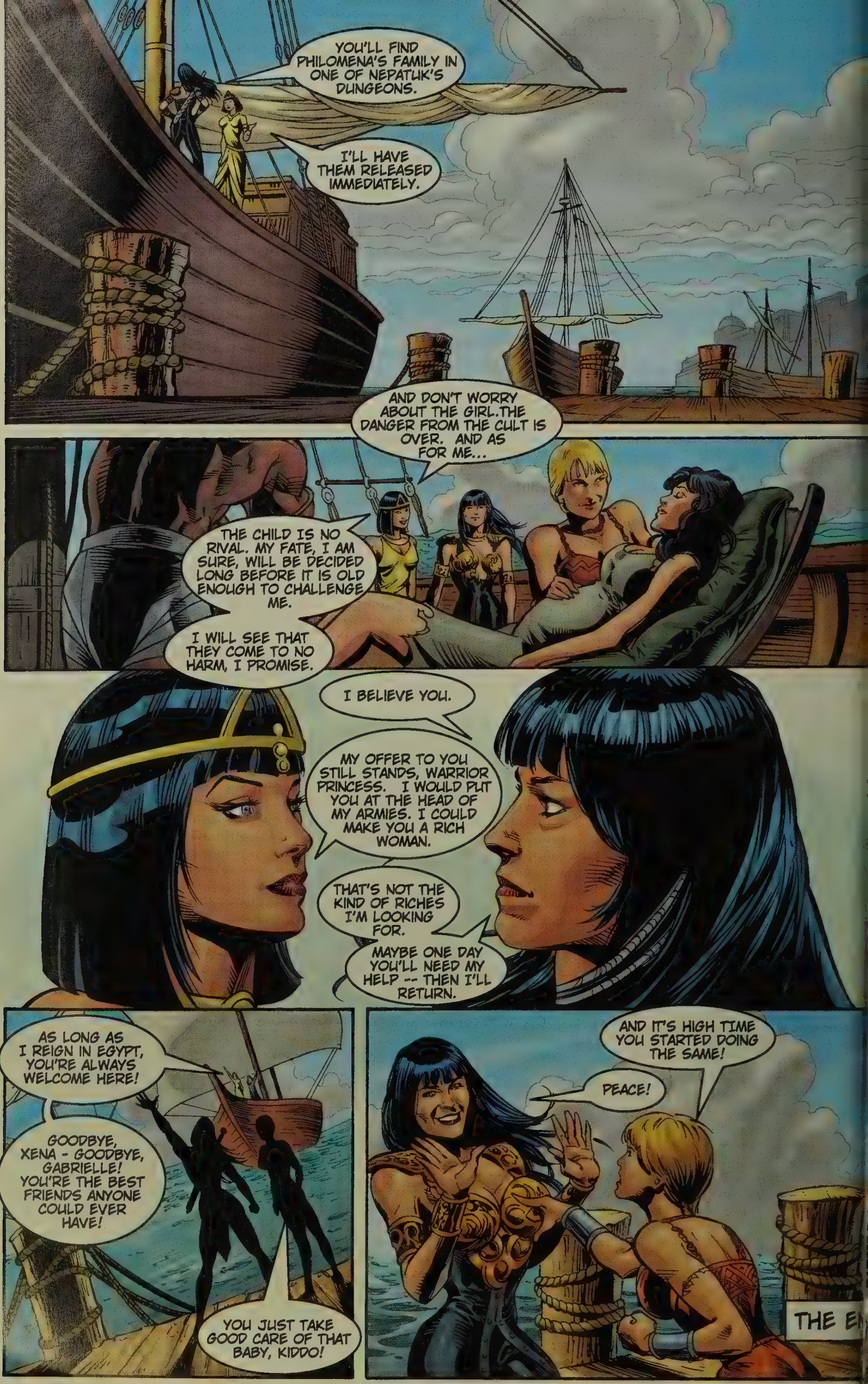

YOU TWO AGAIN!
AAIIIEEEE!
CLUNK
PHILOMENA!
CREEP'S BACK! THERE'S JUST NO KEEPING SOME MUMMIES DOWN!
A SECOND STRING OUTFIT, ARE WE?
DON'T GET ME WRONG, A GOOD SECOND STRING!
WE HAVE DIFFERENT PRIORITIES, THAT IS ALL -- DO NOT MISTAKE IT FOR WEAKNESS!
WE PREFER TO STAND ASIDE FROM THE WORLD OF MORTALS -- WE HAVE LONG AGO TIRED OF YOU AND YOUR PATHETIC LIVES!
HOWEVER, THERE ARE TIMES WHEN WE MUST INTERFERE!


WE HAVE DEFEATED SET ONCE -- IT DOES NOT SUIT OUR PURPOSE TO LET HIM LOOSE UPON THE WORLD AGAIN!
FWAMM
SURRENDER IN THE NAME OF CLEOPATRA!
THIS CAN'T BE GOOD FOR MY BABY, NEVER MIND PHILOMENA'S !
DO IT!


FWOOSH
SPAK!
DON'T BOTHER GETTING UP, PAL! WE'VE HAD QUITE ENOUGH OF YOU!
HEART OF THE MUMMY, RIGHT?
PLINK
DON'T !
TRY AND STOP ME!


AARRGGH!
ENOUGH! IT IS OVER!
TOO RIGHT IT IS!
YOU'RE SAFE NOW, PHILOMENA!


POOR KID, HASN'T BEEN A GOOD TIME FOR YOU, HAS IT?
YOUR TROUBLE, NEPATUK, IS YOU'VE GOT TOO MUCH TIME ON YOUR HANDS FOR PLOTTING. YOU SHOULD TRY TO GET OUT MORE, KEEP YOURSELF BUSY. ROWING -- THAT'S WHAT YOU NEED!
ROWING?
YES, GOOD HEALTHY EXERCISE! KEEP YOU FIT AND OUT OF MISCHIEF! AND I HAVE JUST THE SPOT FOR YOU -- A PERMANENT SPOT!
TAKE HIM TO MY BARGE! CHAIN HIM UP! AND SEE THAT HE'S BEATEN REGULARLY!
MOVE!
THE GODS, A'AM -- THEY'RE LEAVING!
WHY -- SO THEY ARE!
THEY REALLY DON'T ENJOY OUR COMPANY THESE DAYS, DO THEY?
PITY... I'D HOPED TO ASK FOR A FAVOR OR TWO.

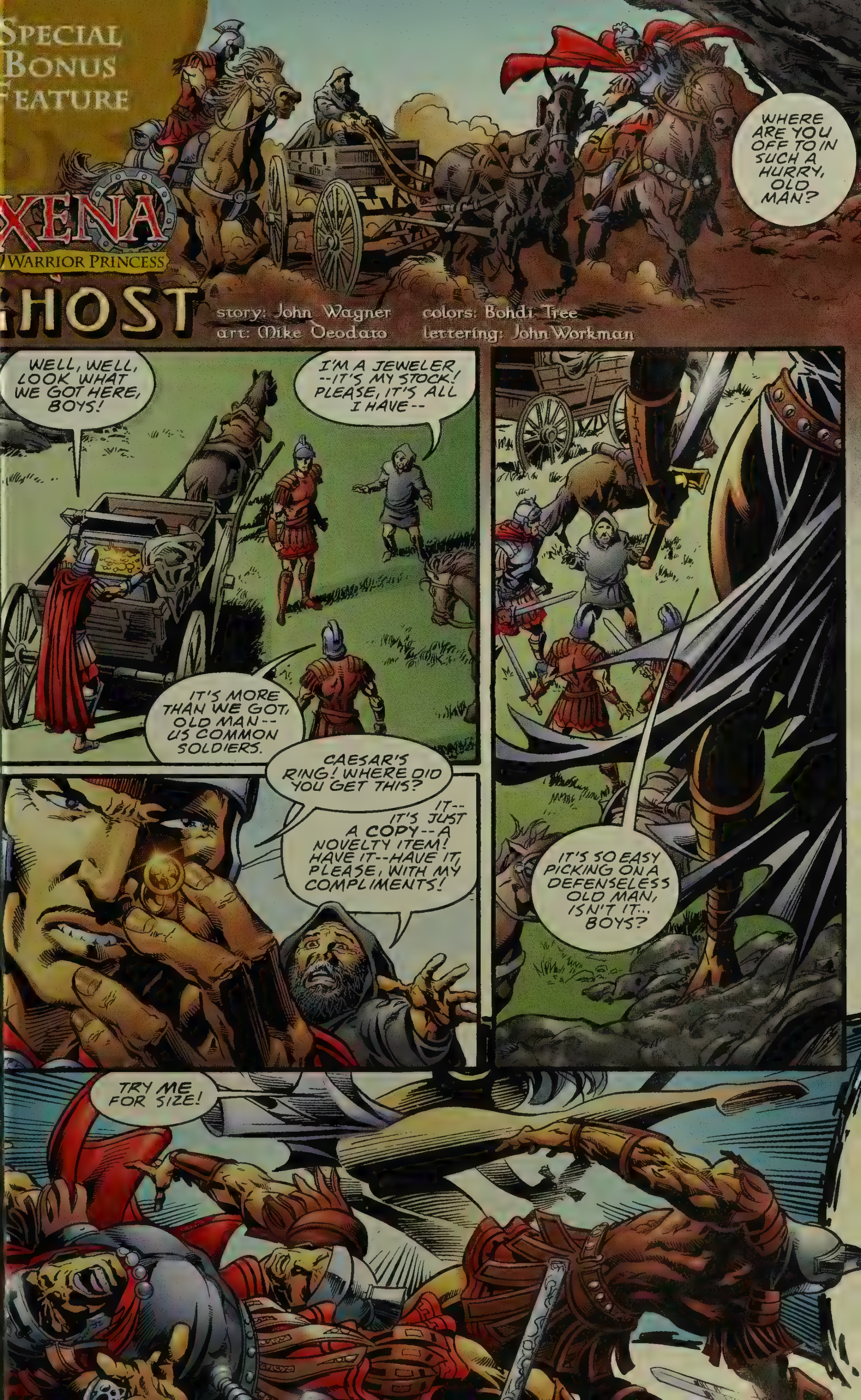

YOU'LL FIND PHILOMENA'S FAMILY IN ONE OF NEPATUK'S DUNGEONS.
I'LL HAVE THEM RELEASED IMMEDIATELY.
AND DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE GIRL. THE DANGER FROM THE CULT IS OVER. AND AS FOR ME...
THE CHILD IS NO RIVAL. MY FATE, I AM SURE, WILL BE DECIDED LONG BEFORE IT IS OLD ENOUGH TO CHALLENGE ME.
I WILL SEE THAT THEY COME TO NO HARM, I PROMISE.
I BELIEVE YOU.
MY OFFER TO YOU STILL STANDS, WARRIOR PRINCESS. I WOULD PUT YOU AT THE HEAD OF MY ARMIES. I COULD MAKE YOU A RICH WOMAN.
THAT'S NOT THE KIND OF RICHES I'M LOOKING FOR.
MAYBE ONE DAY YOU'LL NEED MY HELP -- THEN I'LL RETURN.
AS LONG AS I REIGN IN EGYPT, YOU'RE ALWAYS WELCOME HERE!
GOODBYE, XENA - GOODBYE, GABRIELLE! YOU'RE THE BEST FRIENDS ANYONE COULD EVER HAVE!
YOU JUST TAKE GOOD CARE OF THAT BABY, KIDDO!
AND IT'S HIGH TIME YOU STARTED DOING THE SAME!
PEACE!
THE E

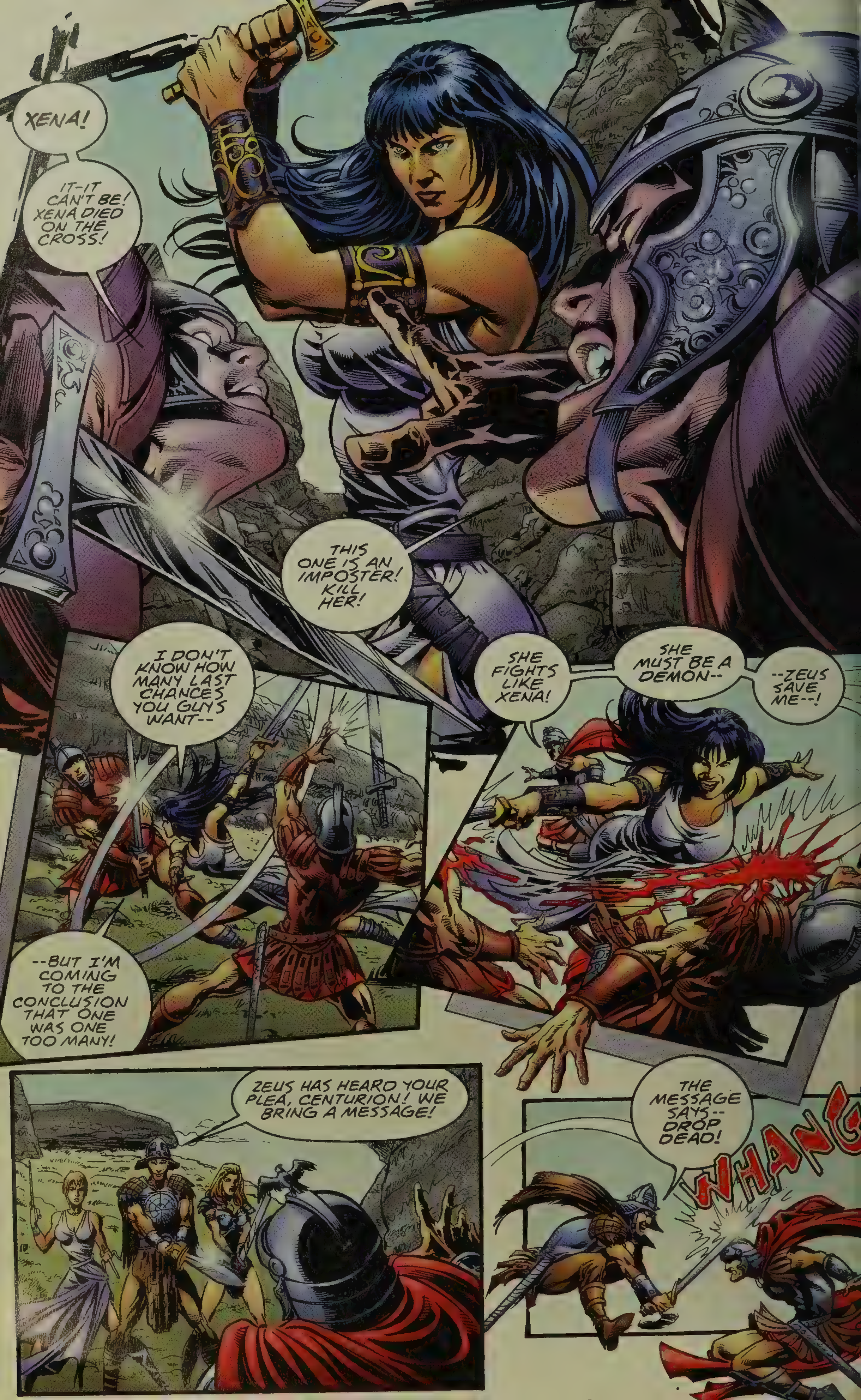
SPECIAL BONUS FEATURE

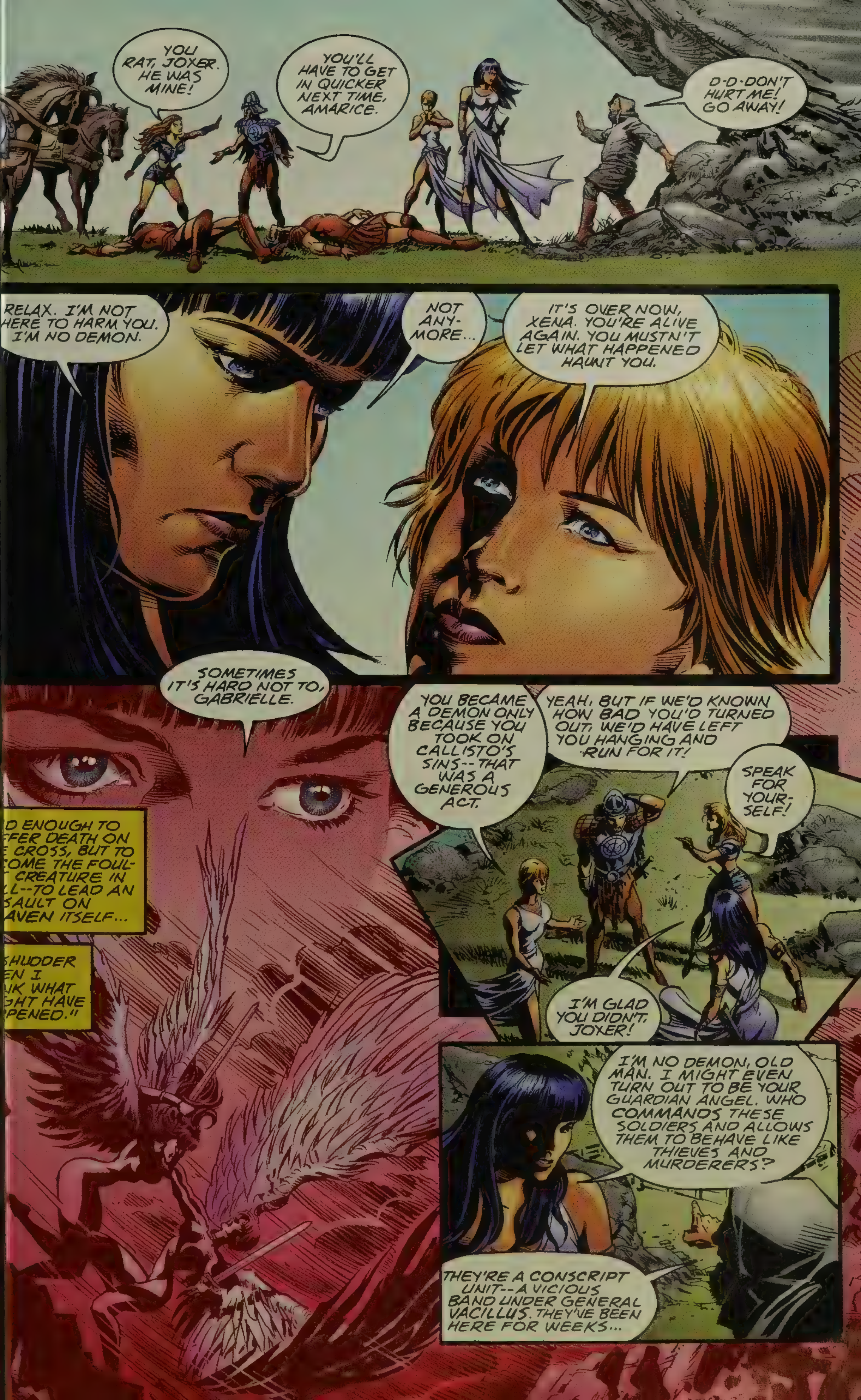
XENA WARRIOR PRINCESS

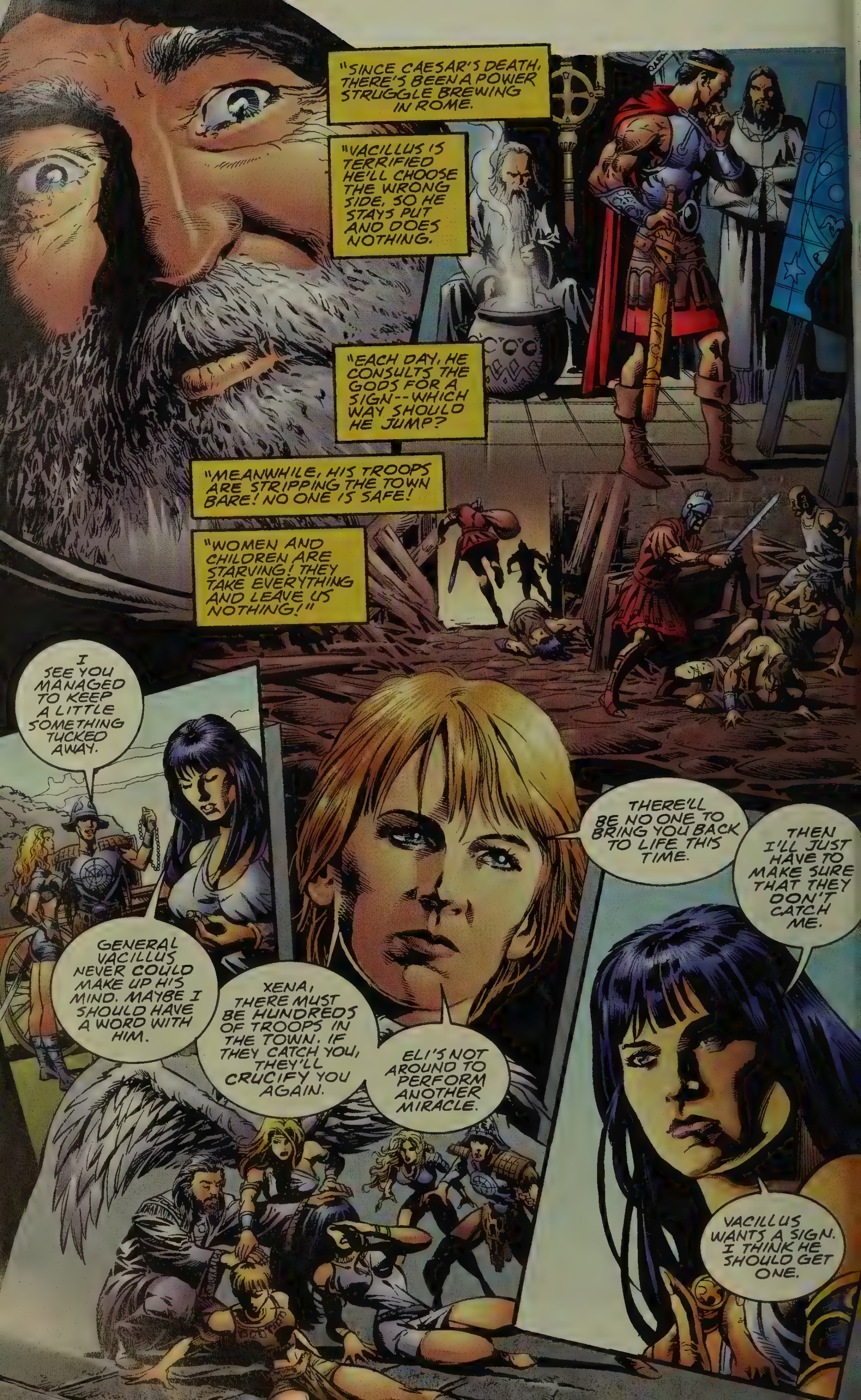
GHOST

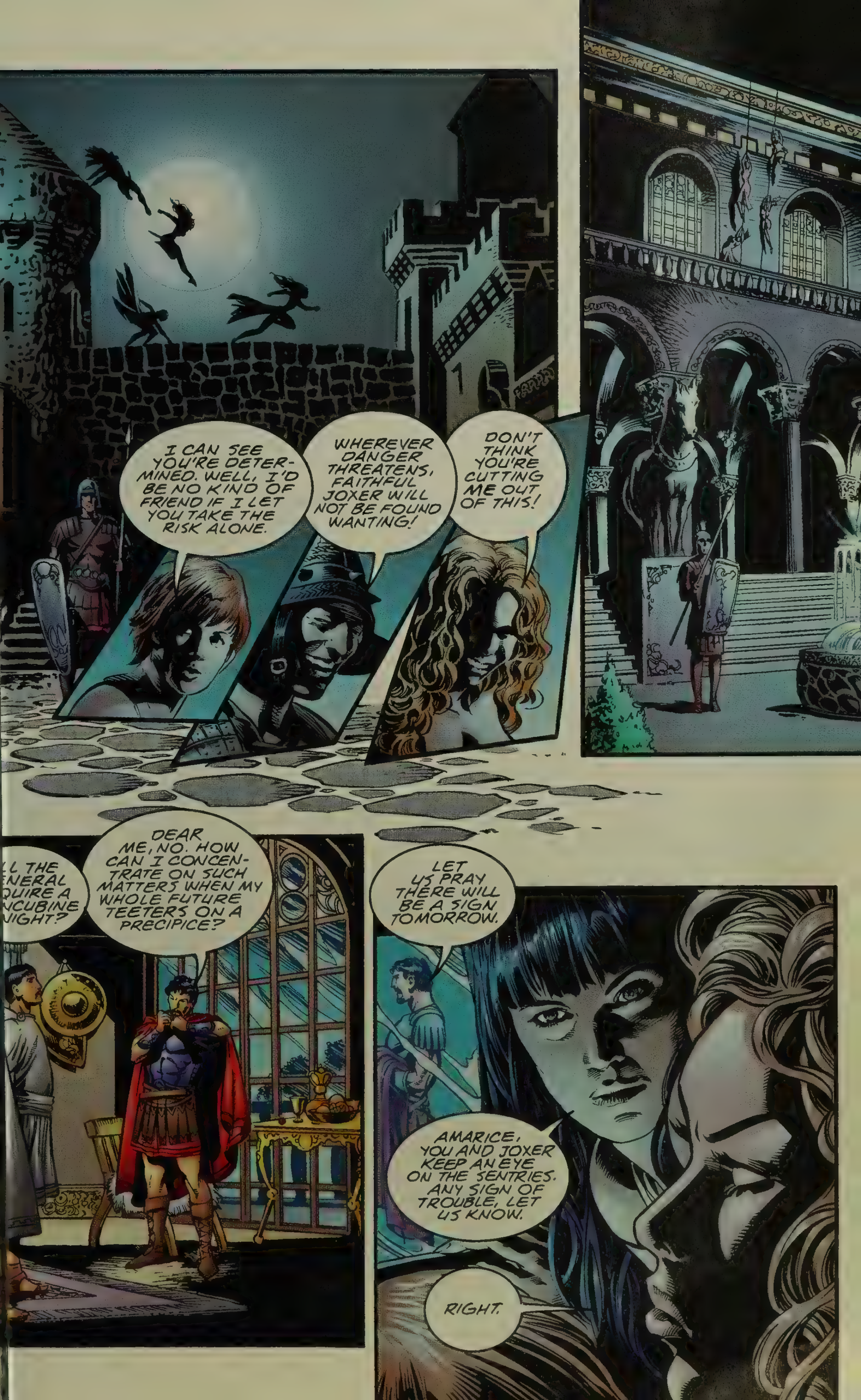
story: John Wagner
art: Mike Deodato
colors: Bohdi Tree
lettering: John Workman

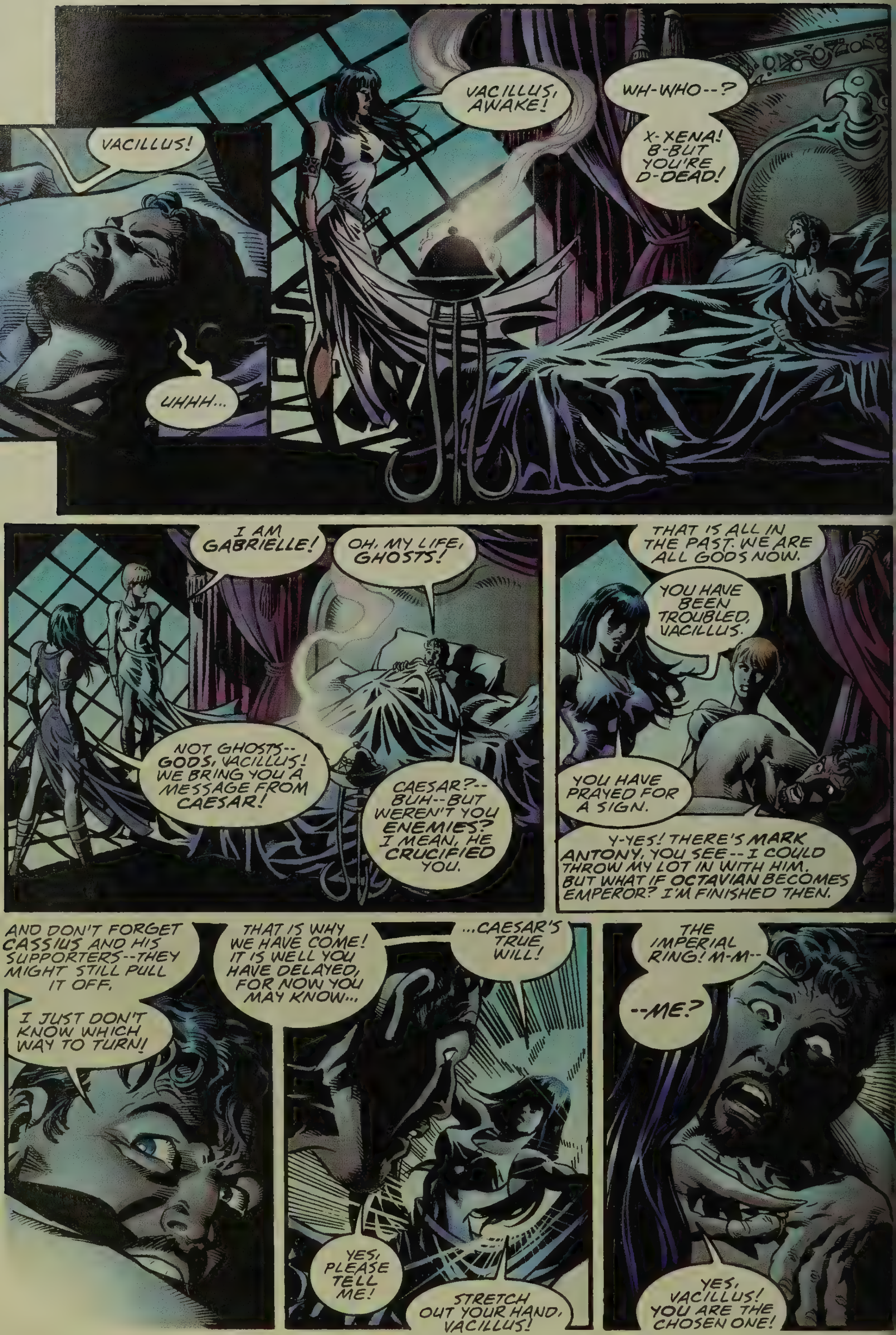

WHERE ARE YOU OFF TO IN SUCH A HURRY, OLD MAN?
WELL, WELL, LOOK WHAT WE GOT HERE, BOYS!
I'M A JEWELER --IT'S MY STOCK! PLEASE, IT'S ALL I HAVE--
IT'S MORE THAN WE GOT, OLD MAN-- US COMMON SOLDIERS.
CAESAR'S RING! WHERE DID YOU GET THIS?
IT-- IT'S JUST A COPY--A NOVELTY ITEM! HAVE IT--HAVE IT, PLEASE, WITH MY COMPLIMENTS!
IT'S SO EASY PICKING ON A DEFENSELESS OLD MAN, ISN'T IT... BOYS?
TRY ME FOR SIZE!

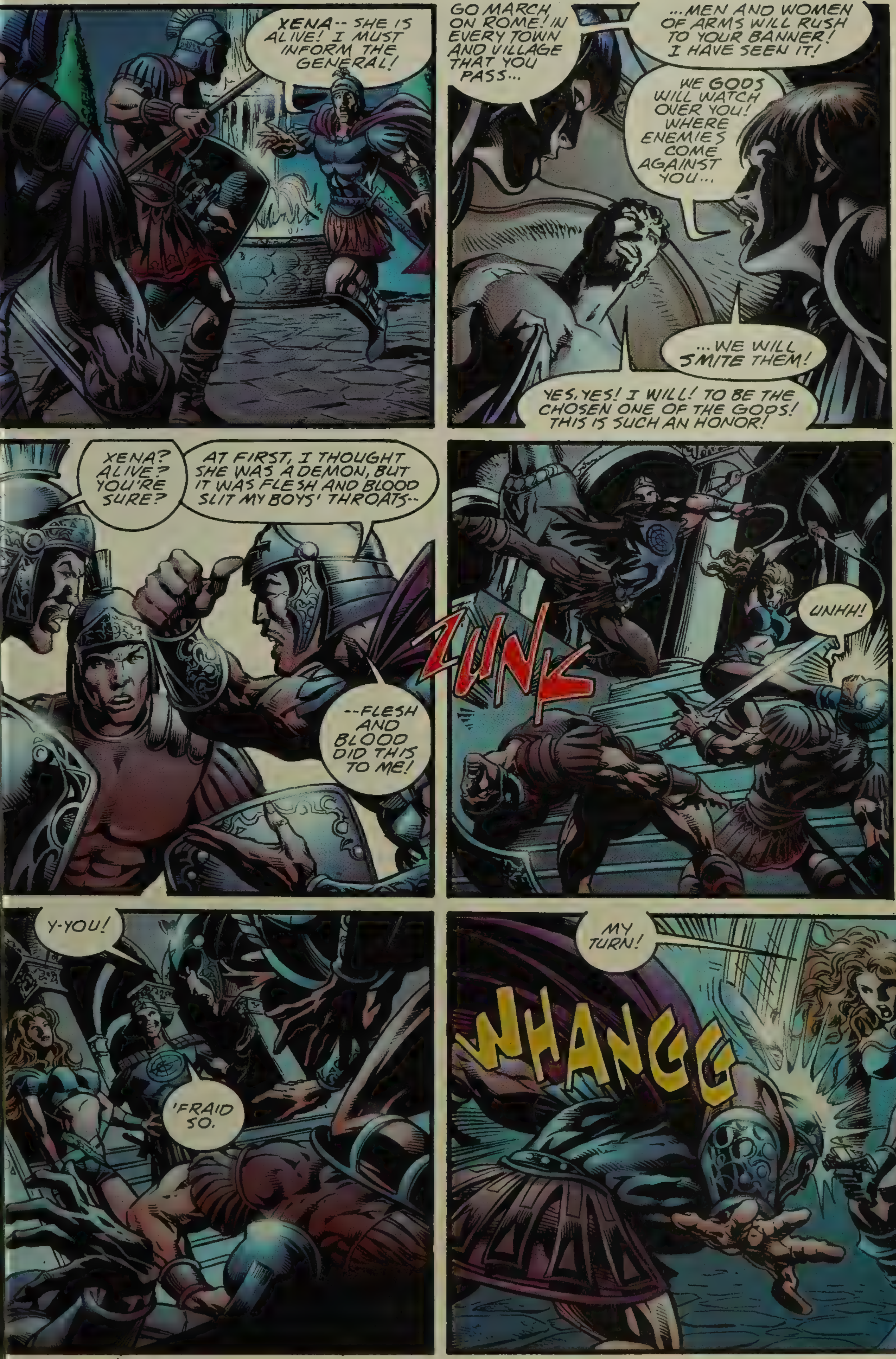

XENA!
IT-IT CAN'T BE! XENA DIED ON THE CROSS!
THIS ONE IS AN IMPOSTER! KILL HER!
I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY LAST CHANCES YOU GUYS WANT--
--BUT I'M COMING TO THE CONCLUSION THAT ONE WAS ONE TOO MANY!
SHE FIGHTS LIKE XENA!
SHE MUST BE A DEMON--
--ZEUS SAVE ME--!
ZEUS HAS HEARD YOUR PLEA, CENTURION! WE BRING A MESSAGE!
THE MESSAGE SAYS-- DROP DEAD!
WHANG

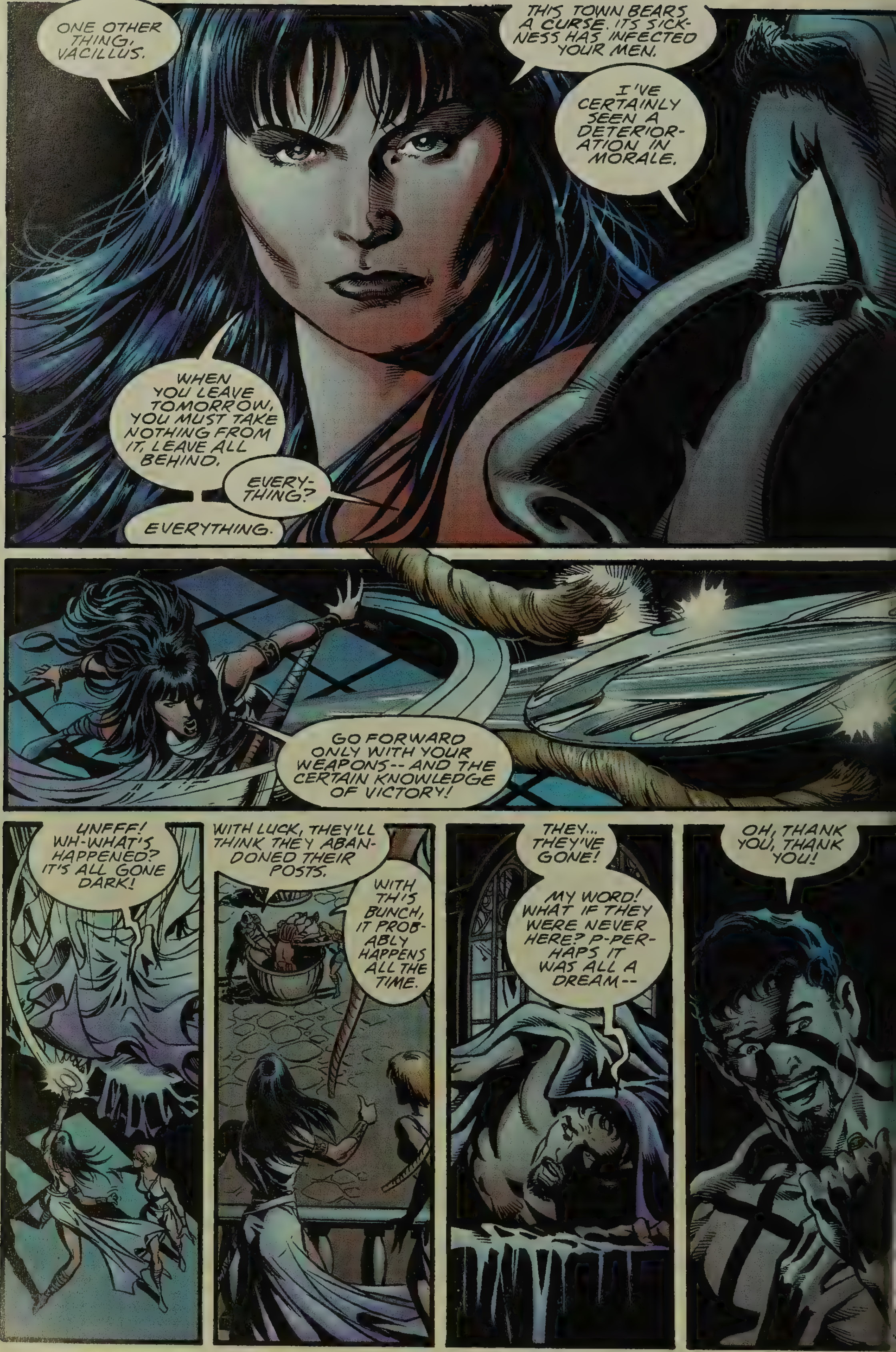

YOU RAT, JOXER. HE WAS MINE!
YOU'LL HAVE TO GET IN QUICKER NEXT TIME, AMARICE.
D-D-DON'T HURT ME! GO AWAY!
RELAX. I'M NOT HERE TO HARM YOU. I'M NO DEMON.
NOT ANY- MORE...
IT'S OVER NOW, XENA. YOU'RE ALIVE AGAIN. YOU MUSTN'T LET WHAT HAPPENED HAUNT YOU.
SOMETIMES IT'S HARD NOT TO, GABRIELLE.
D ENOUGH TO FFER DEATH ON E CROSS, BUT TO OME THE FOUL- CREATURE IN L--TO LEAD AN SAULT ON AVEN ITSELF...
SHUDDER EN I K WHAT GHT HAVE PENED."
YOU BECAME A DEMON ONLY BECAUSE YOU TOOK ON CALLISTO'S SINS--THAT WAS A GENEROUS ACT.
YEAH, BUT IF WE'D KNOWN HOW BAD YOU'D TURNED OUT, WE'D HAVE LEFT YOU HANGING AND RUN FOR IT!
SPEAK FOR YOUR- SELF!
I'M GLAD YOU DIDN'T, JOXER!
I'M NO DEMON, OLD MAN. I MIGHT EVEN TURN OUT TO BE YOUR GUARDIAN ANGEL. WHO COMMANDS THESE SOLDIERS AND ALLOWS THEM TO BEHAVE LIKE THIEVES AND MURDERERS?
THEY'RE A CONSCRIPT UNIT--A VICIOUS BAND UNDER GENERAL VACILLUS. THEY'VE BEEN HERE FOR WEEKS...

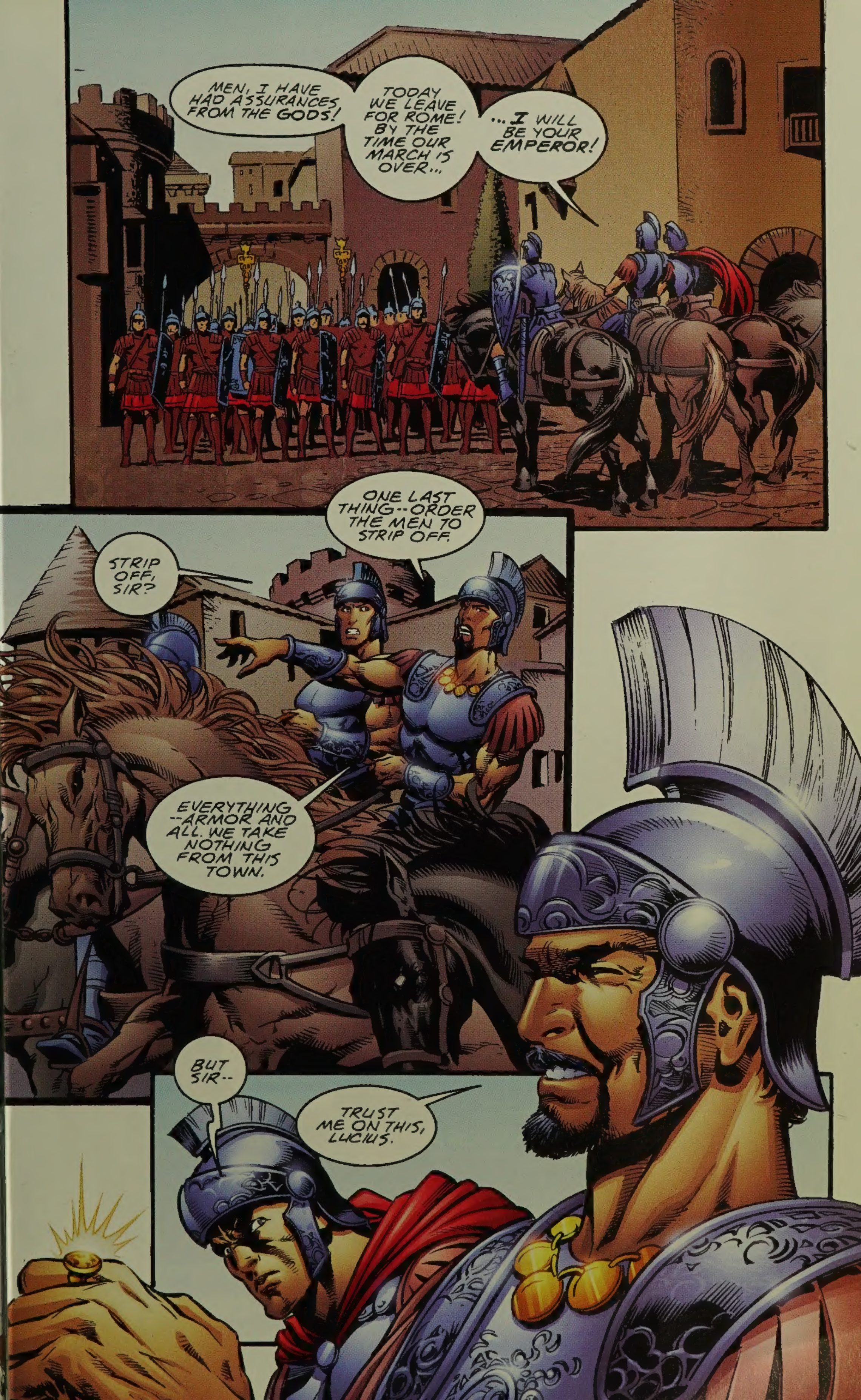

"SINCE CAESAR'S DEATH, THERE'S BEEN A POWER STRUGGLE BREWING IN ROME.
"VACILLUS IS TERRIFIED HE'LL CHOOSE THE WRONG SIDE, SO HE STAYS PUT AND DOES NOTHING.
"EACH DAY, HE CONSULTS THE GODS FOR A SIGN--WHICH WAY SHOULD HE JUMP?
"MEANWHILE, HIS TROOPS ARE STRIPPING THE TOWN BARE! NO ONE IS SAFE!
"WOMEN AND CHILDREN ARE STARVING! THEY TAKE EVERYTHING AND LEAVE US NOTHING!"
I SEE YOU MANAGED TO KEEP A LITTLE SOMETHING TUCKED AWAY.
GENERAL VACILLUS NEVER COULD MAKE UP HIS MIND. MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE A WORD WITH HIM.
XENA, THERE MUST BE HUNDREDS OF TROOPS IN THE TOWN. IF THEY CATCH YOU, THEY'LL CRUCIFY YOU AGAIN.
ELI'S NOT AROUND TO PERFORM ANOTHER MIRACLE.
THERE'LL BE NO ONE TO BRING YOU BACK TO LIFE THIS TIME.
THEN I'LL JUST HAVE TO MAKE SURE THAT THEY DON'T CATCH ME.
VACILLUS WANTS A SIGN. I THINK HE SHOULD GET ONE.

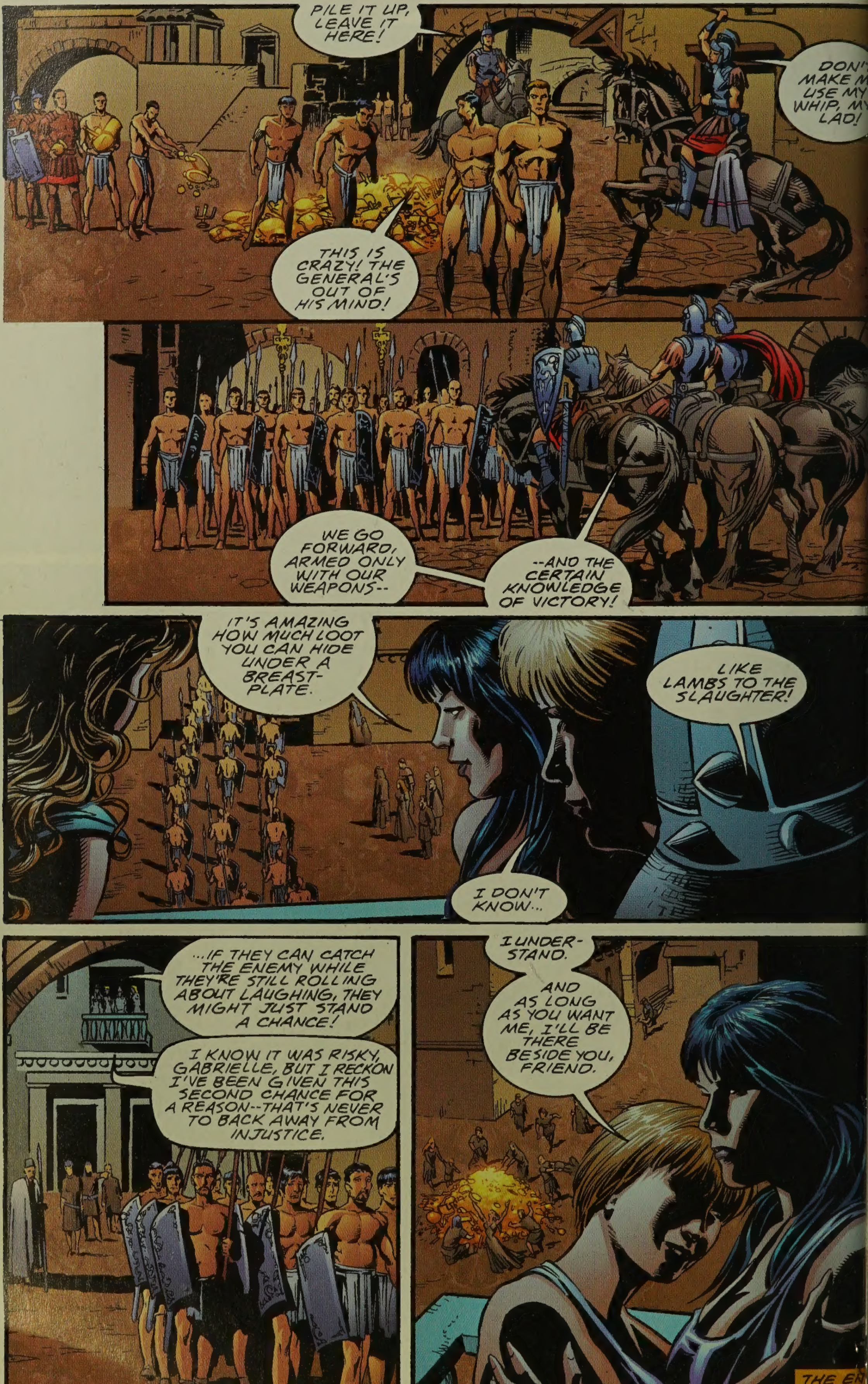

I CAN SEE YOU'RE DETERMINED. WELL, I'D BE NO KIND OF FRIEND IF I LET YOU TAKE THE RISK ALONE.
WHEREVER DANGER THREATENS, FAITHFUL JOXER WILL NOT BE FOUND WANTING!
DON'T THINK YOU'RE CUTTING ME OUT OF THIS!
L THE NERAL QUIRE A NCUBINE NIGHT?
DEAR ME, NO. HOW CAN I CONCENTRATE ON SUCH MATTERS WHEN MY WHOLE FUTURE TEETERS ON A PRECIPICE?
LET US PRAY THERE WILL BE A SIGN TOMORROW.
AMARICE, YOU AND JOXER KEEP AN EYE ON THE SENTRIES. ANY SIGN OF TROUBLE, LET US KNOW.
RIGHT.


VACILLUS!
UHHH...
VACILLUS, AWAKE!
WH-WHO--?
X-XENA! B-BUT YOU'RE D-DEAD!
I AM GABRIELLE!
OH, MY LIFE, GHOSTS!
NOT GHOSTS-- GODS, VACILLUS! WE BRING YOU A MESSAGE FROM CAESAR!
CAESAR?-- BUH--BUT WEREN'T YOU ENEMIES? I MEAN, HE CRUCIFIED YOU.
THAT IS ALL IN THE PAST. WE ARE ALL GODS NOW.
YOU HAVE BEEN TROUBLED, VACILLUS.
YOU HAVE PRAYED FOR A SIGN.
Y-YES! THERE'S MARK ANTONY, YOU SEE-- I COULD THROW MY LOT IN WITH HIM. BUT WHAT IF OCTAVIAN BECOMES EMPEROR? I'M FINISHED THEN.
AND DON'T FORGET CASSIUS AND HIS SUPPORTERS--THEY MIGHT STILL PULL IT OFF.
I JUST DON'T KNOW WHICH WAY TO TURN!
THAT IS WHY WE HAVE COME! IT IS WELL YOU HAVE DELAYED, FOR NOW YOU MAY KNOW...
...CAESAR'S TRUE WILL!
YES, PLEASE TELL ME!
STRETCH OUT YOUR HAND, VACILLUS!
THE IMPERIAL RING! M-M--
--ME?
YES, VACILLUS! YOU ARE THE CHOSEN ONE!


XENA-- SHE IS ALIVE! I MUST INFORM THE GENERAL!
GO MARCH ON ROME! IN EVERY TOWN AND VILLAGE THAT YOU PASS...
...MEN AND WOMEN OF ARMS WILL RUSH TO YOUR BANNER! I HAVE SEEN IT!
WE GODS WILL WATCH OVER YOU! WHERE ENEMIES COME AGAINST YOU...
...WE WILL SMITE THEM!
YES, YES! I WILL! TO BE THE CHOSEN ONE OF THE GODS! THIS IS SUCH AN HONOR!
XENA? ALIVE? YOU'RE SURE?
AT FIRST, I THOUGHT SHE WAS A DEMON, BUT IT WAS FLESH AND BLOOD SLIT MY BOYS' THROATS--
--FLESH AND BLOOD DID THIS TO ME!
ZUNK
UNHH!
Y-YOU!
'FRAID SO.
MY TURN!
WHANGG


ONE OTHER THING, VACILLUS.
THIS TOWN BEARS A CURSE. ITS SICKNESS HAS INFECTED YOUR MEN.
I'VE CERTAINLY SEEN A DETERIORATION IN MORALE.
WHEN YOU LEAVE TOMORROW, YOU MUST TAKE NOTHING FROM IT, LEAVE ALL BEHIND.
EVERYTHING?
EVERYTHING.
GO FORWARD ONLY WITH YOUR WEAPONS-- AND THE CERTAIN KNOWLEDGE OF VICTORY!
UNFFF! WH-WHAT'S HAPPENED? IT'S ALL GONE DARK!
WITH LUCK, THEY'LL THINK THEY ABANDONED THEIR POSTS.
WITH THIS BUNCH, IT PROBABLY HAPPENS ALL THE TIME.
THEY... THEY'VE GONE!
MY WORD! WHAT IF THEY WERE NEVER HERE? P-PERHAPS IT WAS ALL A DREAM--
OH, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!


MEN, I HAVE HAD ASSURANCES FROM THE GODS!
TODAY WE LEAVE FOR ROME! BY THE TIME OUR MARCH IS OVER...
...I WILL BE YOUR EMPEROR!
ONE LAST THING--ORDER THE MEN TO STRIP OFF.
STRIP OFF, SIR?
EVERYTHING --ARMOR AND ALL. WE TAKE NOTHING FROM THIS TOWN.
BUT SIR--
TRUST ME ON THIS, LUCIUS.


PILE IT UP, LEAVE IT HERE!
DON' MAKE M USE MY WHIP, MY LAD!
THIS IS CRAZY! THE GENERAL'S OUT OF HIS MIND!
WE GO FORWARD, ARMED ONLY WITH OUR WEAPONS--
--AND THE CERTAIN KNOWLEDGE OF VICTORY!
IT'S AMAZING HOW MUCH LOOT YOU CAN HIDE UNDER A BREAST-PLATE.
LIKE LAMBS TO THE SLAUGHTER!
I DON'T KNOW...
...IF THEY CAN CATCH THE ENEMY WHILE THEY'RE STILL ROLLING ABOUT LAUGHING, THEY MIGHT JUST STAND A CHANCE!
I KNOW IT WAS RISKY, GABRIELLE, BUT I RECKON I'VE BEEN GIVEN THIS SECOND CHANCE FOR A REASON--THAT'S NEVER TO BACK AWAY FROM INJUSTICE.
I UNDERSTAND.
AND AS LONG AS YOU WANT ME, I'LL BE THERE BESIDE YOU, FRIEND.
THE E

WILD WOMEN!

XENA: WARRIOR PRINCESS
THE WARRIOR WAY OF DEATH
Wagner • Chin • Deodato
80-page color paperback
ISBN: 1-56971-452-5 $9.95
SLAVE
Wagner • Chin • Deodato
80-page color paperback
ISBN: 1-56971-471-1 $9.95

BODY BAGS
Jason Pearson
104-page color paperback
ISBN: 1-56971-268-9 $12.95

BARB WIRE
Arcudi • Lawless • Manley
96-page color paperback
ISBN: 1-56971-139-9 $8.95

BLACK MAGIC
Masamune Shirow
204-page B&W paperback
ISBN: 1-56971-360-X $16.95

BUBBLEGUM CRISIS
GRAND MAL
Adam Warren
112-page color paperback
ISBN: 1-56971-120-8 $14.95

BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER
THE DUST WALTZ
Brereton • Gomez • Ketcham
80-page color paperback
ISBN: 1-56971-342-1 $9.95
THE REMAINING SUNLIGHT
Watson • Bennett • Ketcham
96-page color paperback
ISBN: 1-56971-354-5 $9.95
THE ORIGIN
Golden • Brereton •
Bennett • Ketcham
96-page color paperback
ISBN: 1-56971-429-0 $9.95
UNINVITED GUESTS
Wa
96
ISE
BA
Wa
80
ISE

CARAVAN KIDD
Johji Manabe
VOLUME 1
312-page B&W paperback
ISBN: 1-56971-260-3 $19.95
VOLUME 2
304-page B&W paperback
ISBN: 1-56971-324-3 $19.95
VOLUME 3
296-page B&W paperback
ISBN: 1-56971-338-3 $19.95

THE DIRTY PAIR
A PLAGUE OF ANGELS
Toren Smith • Adam Warren
152-page B&W paperback
ISBN: 1-56971-029-5 $12.95
FATAL BUT NOT SERIOUS
Adam Warren
128-page color paperback
ISBN: 1-56971-172-0 $14.95
BIOHAZARDS
Toren Smith • Adam Warren
120-page B&W paperback
ISBN: 1-56971-339-1 $12.95

DOMINION
Masamune Shirow
DOMINION
224-page B&W paperback
ISBN: 1-56971-488-6 $16.95

GHOST
GHOST STORIES
Prosser • Luke • Grant •
Hughes • Haley
96-page color paperback
ISBN: 1-56971-057-0 $8.95
NOCTURNES
Luke • Hughes • Farmer
96-page color paperback
ISBN: 1-56971-150-X $9.95
EXHUMING ELISA
Luke • Reis • Emberlin
160-page color paperback
ISBN: 1-56971-272-7 $17.95
Rodriguez
ack
5 $4.95
n
back
4 $14.95
n
ack
3 $9.95
RK
ncuse
back
7 $14.95

GHOST IN THE SHELL
Masamune Shirow
352-page B&W
w/color paperback
ISBN: 1-56971-081-3 $24.95

GIRL CRAZY
Gilbert Hernandez
88-page B&W paperback
ISBN: 1-56971-264-6 $9.95

GUNSMITH CATS
Kenichi Sonoda
BONNIE AND CLYDE
176-page B&W paperback
ISBN: 1-56971-215-8 $13.95
MISFIRE
184-page B&W paperback
ISBN: 1-56971-253-0 $12.95
THE RETURN OF GRAY
248-page B&W paperback
ISBN: 1-56971-299-9 $17.95
GOLDIE VS. MISTY
192-page B&W paperback
ISBN: 1-56971-371-5 $15.95
BAD TRIP
152-page B&W paperback
ISBN: 1-56971-442-8 $13.95
BEAN BANDIT
224-page B&W paperback
ISBN: 1-56971-453-3 $16.95

THE LEGEND OF MOTHER SARAH
TUNNEL TOWN
Katsuhiro Otomo • Takumi Nagayasu
224-page B&W paperback
ISBN: 1-56971-145-3 $18.95

MARTHA WASHINGTON
Frank Miller • Dave Gibbons
GIVE ME LIBERTY
208-page color paperback
ISBN: 1-56971-067-8 $19.95
GOES TO WAR
144-page color paperback
ISBN: 1-56971-090-2 $17.95
SAVES THE WORLD
112-page color paperback
ISBN: 1-56971-384-7 $12.95

OH MY GODDESS!
Kosuke Fujishima
1-555-GODDESS
152-page B&W paperback
ISBN: 1-56971-207-7 $13.95
LOVE POTION NO. 9
192-page B&W paperback
ISBN: 1-56971-252-2 $14.95
SYMPATHY FOR THE DEVIL
160-page B&W paperback
ISBN: 1-56971-329-4 $13.95
TERRIBLE MASTER URD
176-page B&W paperback
ISBN: 1-56971-369-3 $14.95
THE QUEEN OF VENGEANCE
152-page B&W paperback
ISBN: 1-56971-431-2 $13.95
MARA STRIKES BACK
176-page B&W paperback
ISBN: 1-56971-449-5 $14.95
ADVENTURES OF THE MINI-GODDESSES
88-page B&W paperback
ISBN: 1-56971-421-5 $9.95

RASCALS IN PARADISE
Jim Silke
104-page color paperback
ISBN: 1-56971-075-9 $16.95

SPECIES
HUMAN RACE
Rennie • Hester • Parks
96-page color paperback
ISBN: 1-56971-219-0 $11.95

3 x 3 EYES
Yuzo Takada
CURSE OF THE GESU
152-page B&W paperback
ISBN: 1-56971-175-5 $12.95
HOUSE OF DEMONS
160-page B&W paperback
ISBN: 1-56971-059-7 $12.95

YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!
Kosuke Fujishima
THE WILD ONES
152-page B&W paperback
ISBN: 1-56971-319-7 $12.95
LIGHTS AND SIREN!
120-page B&W paperback
ISBN: 1-56971-432-0 $10.95

local comics shop or bookstore!

s shop in your area, call 1-888-266-4226
re information or to order direct:
khorse.com •E-mail: mailorder@darkhorse.com
(503) 652-9701 Mon.-Sat. 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. Pacific Time
ailability subject to change without notice

• **Neil Hankerson** *executive vice president* • **Andy Karabatsos** *vice president &* *publishing* • **Chris Warner** *editor in chief* • **Michael Martens** *vice president of marketing* • **Anita Nelson** *vice president of sales & licensing* • **David Scroggy** *vice president of product development* • **Cindy Marks** *director of production & design* • **Mark Cox** *art director* • **Sean Tierney** *computer graphics director* • **Dale LaFountain** *director of m.i.s.* • **Kim Haines** *director of human resources* • **Darlene Vogel** *director of purchasing* • **Ken Lizzi** • *general counsel*

XENA
WARRIOR PRINCESS™

SLAVE

Xena's had it up to her chakram with adventures now that she's been crucified, killed, and sent to hell. But she's all better now, and there's no time to rest, especially when a pregnant teenage slave is being prepared for sacrifice by an Egyptian cult. Maybe her own new status as a mother-to-be is getting Xena all riled up, but there's no way she and Gabrielle are going to let the girl die, even if they have to cut their way through the Egyptian priesthood and the Roman Army to get the job done. Guest-starring Cleopatra, a zombie priest, and a bunch of honked-off Egyptian gods, *Xena: Slave* is the must-read Amazon adventure of the year!

Xena: Warrior Princess continues its full-throttle run as the number one, first-run syndicated action hour on television.

Dark Horse captures the spunk and strength of this incredible icon in exciting adventures that are too hot for TV!

DARK HORSE COMICS®

$9.95 U.S., $14.95 CANADA
www.darkhorse.com

TITAN BOOKS LTD £9.99
ISBN 1-84023-240-4
00999
9 781840 232400

KO-990-510